



SPEECHES

delivered by

HIS EXCELLENCY
Colonel the Right Hon'ble
Sir Francis Stanley Jackson, P.C., G.C.I.E.,
GOVERNOR OF BENGAL

during

1928-29.



GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
LIBRARY, CALCUTTA.

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Speeches delivered by His Excellency Sir. Francis Stanley Jackson during 1928-29.

His Excellency's Speech at the Opening of the New Headquarters and Central Hall of the Salvation Army on 4th July 1928.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am very pleased to have this opportunity of taking part in the opening of this fine building to-day. The occasion is of special interest in that it marks the completion of a memorial to the 70th birthday of General Bramwell Booth, and it provides a Headquarters for your organization, from which you can supervise and operate your work throughout Eastern India.

The support you have obtained towards the construction of these buildings is eloquent of the confidence which your work enjoys. I know how thoroughly and persistently you labour in the collection of funds to support your work, but however great and well-sustained your efforts in this direction may be, they would not receive the response they do, unless people were satisfied that your work was well-done and the results of it were to the general interest and good of mankind.

You are rightly proud of the progress your movement has made during the 60 odd years of its existence, since its foundation by William Booth—one of the outstanding figures of his time.

I have always been greatly impressed with the business-like way the Salvation Army manages its affairs, and, as an organization, there is nothing of the same character which can claim to be its superior. I remember the day when I was apt to regard the Salvation Army with amusement. I was cured of this habit in a very simple way. One day one of your officers called on me and asked for a subscription. He did not find me very sympathetic and I asked him what they did with the money which they collected. His answer to me was—“Why don’t you come and see for yourself”? I agreed that I would do so and he suggested that I should meet him that night in the city of Leeds. He took me to some of the numerous shelters which they ran in the city. There I found a collection of all sorts and conditions of men and women who had found their way into these shelters for a short rest in light and warmth, and a cup of cocoa which was being served to them by the men and women of your organization. As they went out after their cup of cocoa, I could see a genuine gratitude and a feeling and in that cup there was a touch of human kindness which helped them to face the difficulties of the inhospitable world outside. That was work worth supporting. I met another officer, Commandant Lamb, who was, I believe, the head of the Emigration work in London. I was greatly impressed with his exceptional grasp of the problem of emigration and its surrounding difficulties, and was also impressed with the organization which he had conceived and set up in connection with this work. I did not hesitate to commend him to the Government Department responsible, and I believe they

found his services in connection with emigration, especially to Australia, of great value.

One of the greatest claims for appreciating your work is that you get down to a class of people which few others do or can, and they are the ones which most need the help. India, and Calcutta particularly, offers plenty of scope for work. I can well believe all is not plain sailing. You must proceed with caution and tact amongst a people of strong religious feelings and naturally suspicious. You must always realize that a considerable responsibility lies upon each one of you to maintain the good name not only of the Salvation Army, but also of the country in which your work originated.

In declaring this building open, I wish to express the earnest hope that it may successfully and usefully fulfil its purpose and that your good work in India, as elsewhere, may continue to prosper.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of the Calcutta Stock Exchange Building
on 6th July 1928.***

MR. TURLE, MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am grateful for the compliment you have paid me in asking me to come here to-day and take part in the opening ceremony of the new premises of the Calcutta Stock Exchange.

We have just heard with much pleasure your most interesting speech, in which you trace the history of stock-broking in Calcutta, extending over a period of 100 years. It appears that for many years the business of stock-broking was carried on in the open air by outside brokers, I presume, and that it was not until about 21 years ago that an exchange, with a properly constituted Association, was considered to be necessary.

Your Association to-day, with its membership of 200 firms, is established upon a sound foundation, with a Committee representative of all communities, to whom you hand over the power to interpret contracts and to decide disputes. The names of the firms who comprise your Association and of the gentlemen on the Committee should in themselves inspire complete confidence.

I suppose nobody is invested with more arbitrary powers than the Committee of the London Stock Exchange whose methods you, I believe, propose to emulate. No transgression of the rules escapes their vigilance, and, if necessary, their censure. Such drastic powers have been found necessary in the interests of the public and to assure public confidence, upon which the prosperity and well-being of your business depend.

A Stock Exchange is a necessary adjunct to the commercial life of great cities and industrial areas. As you picturesquely stated in your speech, the Stock Exchange is the channel by which the water of capital is led to the irrigation of industrial enterprise. One thing, I imagine, it is desirable to avoid—is that the water should not get mixed up with the capital.

I cannot imagine that Calcutta, the first city in India, the hub of the business world—with its exceptional markets, tea, jute and coal, its power companies, its engineering concerns and its potentialities of industrial development, could be without a Stock Exchange constituted on the best possible lines.

I know little of the technical side of your business, but we all know that you provide a playground for bulls and bears, and sometimes, I believe, for stags.

Most of us here, I expect, have had experience of some transactions upon the Stock Exchange and I hope all such experiences have been satisfactory. Personally, I have generally thought that when I sell, I have always sold at the lowest price of the day and when I have bought, it appeared to be at the highest price, but, perhaps, this is an experience which has only come to me.

I congratulate you on these new premises. They should in all respects meet your purpose. This building in which you are to be housed in the future should prove a distinct addition to the business life of this city, and in declaring it open, I wish it and all those who are using it, a long and continued prosperity.

***His Excellency's Speech at the laying of
the foundation-stone of the Bengal
Legislative Council Chamber on 9th July
1928.***

NAWAB BAHADUR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I feel I am fortunate that the honour of laying the foundation-stone of the new Bengal Council Chamber has fallen to my lot. The occasion should be of special interest not only to this city of Calcutta, in whose midst it will stand, but also throughout all parts of the Presidency, from which representatives are sent to take their seats in the Council.

The necessity for a Chamber suitable to accommodate a Council of the proportions laid down by the Act of 1919 is obvious. Since 1909 representation in the Council has rapidly increased. In 1909, there were 50 members, of which 26 only were elected by definite constituencies, whilst under the Act of 1919 the numbers were raised to 140, of which 113 were elected.

We listened to your speech, Nawab Bahadur, with much interest when you told us of the vicissitudes through which the project of the construction of this Parliament House has passed since it was initiated under your guidance six or seven years ago. It was then agreed that the Legislative Council, as constituted under the Reforms, should be housed under conditions consonant with its importance and dignity. It would seem that the provision of such a building is over-due, but no one appreciates better than I do the difficulties with

which you have been faced. The Council was willing, but the purse was weak.

In 1921, there was a deficit budget, and it was not until 1925 that we were in a position to raise loans for buildings, other than those from which an immediate financial return was assured.

These were obstacles difficult to surmount. We are, however, here to-day to start the building on its way and to wish the work godspeed.

Everyone desires that the building should be worthy of this great city. It will stand upon a perfect site, which, I feel, could only have been allotted for a structure, whose purpose is of such great provincial importance. Such a site demands a building worthy of it.

The decision to limit the stone-facing to the plinth, owing to want of funds, must be regarded by all as a regrettable necessity, to be remedied, I trust, at the earliest possible moment.

I can well understand your reference to the inconvenience and discomforts the Council has had to contend with during their tenure of their present quarters.

Defects in practically every necessary attribute of a Council Chamber cannot have assisted towards smooth working in an atmosphere not always free from disturbance. The necessity for strengthening the supports of the Chamber would indicate a fear for its stability—and I may be allowed to attribute to this defect some responsibility for the occasional alarm of the instability of the Ministry.

A foundation-stone can only be declared well and truly laid, provided the foundations upon which the whole structure is to stand are sure,

strong and reliable. I have reason to know that the foundations of this new building are being doubly assured and I feel satisfied that the reputation of the firm of Messrs. Martin & Co., of which my friend, Sir Rajendra Nath Mookerjee, is the head, is such as to give complete confidence that the work will be carried through in all respects in the best possible manner.

It is usually justifiable when laying a foundation-stone to look forward to the future with some hopefulness.

No good purpose can be served by dwelling upon the past. We are more concerned with the future. It is anticipated that the building will be completed and ready for occupation about August 1930. Two years hence may well prove to be a period of exceptional interest in the political life of India.

In the ordinary course by that date the Commission may have reported to Parliament and a new Constitution, may have been promulgated and the Legislative Council of Bengal may well take their seats under new conditions in the new Council Chamber.

A great responsibility rests upon all at this moment and especially upon those who may be regarded as the leaders of political thought throughout India.

Much depends upon the assistance and co-operation given as to how soon and how satisfactorily the problem of India's political future is solved. That general support for the Commission in their most complex and onerous task, which was hoped for throughout India, has so far not been forthcoming, but I refuse to believe that this

disinclination to face practical issues in a practical way on the part of some of the more prominent leaders can continue.

I prefer to think that political wisdom and commonsense will eventually provide a means, through goodwill and understanding, of solving the problem of India's political future, upon which depends the prosperity and contentment of its people.

The Commission appointed for the purpose of advising Parliament upon the future Government of India will start their work in India in the course of a few months. It must be admitted that they have already given marked evidence of their desire to meet fairly the wishes of moderate Indian opinion by their request for co-operation of a committee of equal numbers upon equal terms from the Indian Legislatures and also from the Provincial Councils. They have invited these provincial committees not only to hear the evidence, but also to study all documentary materials put up by, or through, the Local Governments, with a view to enabling them to guide the Commission aright towards a fair and impartial judgment. I have every confidence that Bengal will rise to her responsibility and accept the opportunity so offered.

I venture to express a hope—not too extravagant I trust—that I may see a Parliament of Bengal sitting within this completed building, of which I lay the foundation-stone to-day, working harmoniously and contentedly under a new constitution, for the welfare of the people, and moving steadily forward up the road which may lead to the ultimate attainment of India's legitimate aspirations.

***His Excellency's Speech on the occasion
of his being appointed a Life Member
of the Islamia College Union, Calcutta,
on 10th July 1928.***

MR. HARLEY AND MEMBERS OF THE ISLAMIA COLLEGE UNION—

I am very grateful for your address and for your generous references to my endeavours during the short period that I have occupied my position as Governor of Bengal.

I greatly appreciate your kindness in making me a life member of the Islamia College Union. Though the College is only two years old, you are to be congratulated upon the signs of your activity and of your desire to accomplish the aims of its founders. You refer to the speech made by my predecessor, Lord Lytton, when he laid the foundation-stone of the College on the 9th December 1924, and I notice that he then expressed the hope that the establishment of the College "would enable the Mussalmans of Bengal to play that part in the making of the political and social future of the Province to which their numbers, their past history and their very real importance in the body politic entitle them as their just and lawful one." These were words of hope to which I personally readily subscribe.

This College has apparently been established with a view to disseminating a knowledge of the high ideals of modern life in Islamic surroundings congenial to the growth of their traditional culture.

There appears to be no question that the institution has supplied a real need of the Moslem community and realizes an ideal which has long been cherished by that community.

I am pleased to hear that the resources of the College have been supplemented by voluntary contributions from Moslems, for the purpose of inaugurating a Duty Fund and by creating special stipends. From this fund substantial relief has been given to poor students who, but for such help, would have been excluded from the benefits of a University training. I should like to congratulate you and the College Union upon its activities which, in spite of the political troubles of the times, aim at the creation of a healthy public life and the promotion of *esprit de corps* amongst the teachers and students and help to establish proper feeling in the corporate life of the College.

You draw my attention to the drain upon the Union Fund for the upkeep of a common room. I understand that Government at present makes a grant to the common room similar to what it does to other Government colleges of the same status. I can speak with some knowledge of the position of Government finances and, I am afraid, it is difficult to expect more assistance from Government in this respect, but I hope you will allow me to give you a donation of Rs. 550 towards the joint funds of your Union and common room in the hope that it may assist you to attain the object you have at heart.

I also note your anxiety for the provision of B. Sc. classes. If the keen demand for seats in the I. Sc. classes continues, the problem of providing

B. Sc. classes may be considered, in case the Moslem public come forward with generous donations towards the acquisition of the surrounding land and further expansion of the College.

I am keenly interested in the proposals for providing facilities for sports and games, and I hope you will soon have a good playing field and make full use of it. A scheme for the improvement of physical education in schools and colleges and for the appointment of trained Physical Instructors has been sanctioned by Government. The question of the appointment of a trained Physical Inspector in the Islamia College is under the consideration of Government.

I would like to assure you of my personal interest in the economic and political welfare of the Mussalmans of the Presidency and I will do all I can to help them to play their full part.

I again thank you, gentlemen, of the Islamia College, for the very cordial welcome you have extended to me to-day and for the honour you have done me in electing me a life member of your Union. This is my first visit and I shall look forward to my next.

I wish you all prosperity and trust that your College will continue to prove an ever-increasing source of strength to your people and through them to all Bengal.

***His Excellency's Reply to the joint address
presented at Sirajganj on 16th July
1928.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful for the address which you, the Commissioners of the Municipality, Members of the Local Board, the Anjuman, the European Merchants' Association, the Marwari Panchayat and the Bengalee Panchayat, have jointly presented to my wife and me on the occasion of our first visit to Sirajganj.

I acknowledge your expression of loyalty and devotion to the British Government and to His Most Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor.

I greatly appreciate your kindly references to the results of my endeavours during the 16 months I have been in Bengal. I have every reason to be grateful for the generous support I have received in all directions.

It was a source of the greatest satisfaction to me and my Government when the people of the district of Pabna, with an unselfish and generous spirit, voluntarily agreed to discard their communal differences and live in amity and peace. The credit you give to the District Magistrate and the Commissioner for their tactful handling of a delicate and difficult situation is well deserved and your acknowledgment of their services is much appreciated. It was with feelings of exceptional satisfaction that I was able to announce the amnesty to all the accused persons arrested after the disturbances. Your action shows what can be

done where wise leadership and goodwill prevail. I trust that this spirit of tolerance is firmly established and that nothing will upset it, and that your wise and sensible example will be followed by others.

I fully appreciate your serious anxiety in connection with the threat to your town through the attack of the waters of the river Jamuna. One of my objects in coming here to-day is to see the difficulties with which you are faced and I have with me the Chief Engineer and also the Consulting Engineer of the Government of India. Last year I was informed of the serious situation caused by the encroachment of the river upon your front, and I asked the Chief Engineer of the Irrigation Department to make an examination and report what steps could be taken to meet the difficulties. The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department and the Chief Engineer paid personal visits both in the dry and rainy seasons to consider, in consultation with you and with the experts of the Steamer Companies, what action could be taken and what could reasonably be expected to assure useful results. After careful investigation, the Chief Engineer reported that however willing the Government might be to undertake the construction of protective works, and however willing they might be to spend large sums of money, experience had proved that the power of the natural flow of river, directed against one spot, together with the factor of time, would, in all probability, defeat any human effort that could be suggested. Judging by what I have seen in other places, I should think that his conclusions cannot be controverted.

I appreciate the value of the public and private interests which are threatened, though I am informed that any human action that could divert the river would involve an expenditure far exceeding the value of the property concerned. My Government in Council have considered most anxiously the question of erosion through river action. You will appreciate that what is happening at Sirajganj is not an isolated case—a policy must be adopted to meet all such eventualities. Government must give every assistance possible under such conditions as you are now experiencing. One never likes to adopt the attitude of sitting by and trusting to luck; it is an admission of defeat. But in this case it appeared to Government that the best they could do would be to attempt to minimise the disaster by the immediate provision of accommodation for carrying on the public services and the making of a survey inland, in case the worst does happen, for the reconstruction of the threatened Government buildings. I feel I can give you the assurance that Government will do everything they can to help you in the unfortunate position you find yourselves.

You draw my attention to several matters of public utility which are of immediate concern to your Municipality. You refer to your water-supply both in the Municipality and in the rural areas. Government cannot assume financial responsibility for the supply of drinking water to towns and villages. The cost of schemes for water-supply must be met locally. It is, however, Government's practice to assist Municipalities in the construction of waterworks by giving one-third of the total cost and by lending the balance or part of it as required.

If a scheme for the construction of waterworks in Sirajganj town is submitted, it will be examined and, if found in order, Government will be prepared to make the usual grants. An annual grant is made by Government towards rural water-supply of which your district gets a share through the Commissioner. On the recommendation of the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government, Government have agreed to make this provincial grant permanent. The policy is to use this money for the purpose of financing loans which may be raised by District Boards, and Government have *expressed its willingness* to advance money to District Boards which are prepared, in their turn, to lend to Union Boards, for financing schemes of improvement.

I learnt with satisfaction from your District Magistrate that Union Boards have been established this year throughout the district and that the work of improvement of the water-supply will be carried out through their agency.

You ask for the establishment of a Subordinate Judge's Court at Sirajganj. I have consulted the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court and find that they consider the volume of work at Sirajganj does not justify the posting of a Subordinate Judge here or of a Munsif with powers up to Rs. 2,000. It appears that since the Hon'ble Judges were approached on a previous occasion, in 1914, railway communication has been established, making the journey to Pabna easier, where there is a Subordinate Judge's Court which my advisers consider should enable you to get your cases disposed of with reasonable expedition.

You ask for Government assistance towards your local hospital and dispensary. The only way in which Government can assist is by a grant for a building scheme and to provide extra equipment. I have not heard that the Dispensary Committee have any scheme in hand. When one is submitted, Government will give it their most sympathetic consideration. I shall personally be pleased to donate Rs. 2,000 for immediate needs in the matter of equipment.

I am afraid that the reply I have been able to give to your request as regards the erosion of the banks, is such as is satisfactory neither to you nor to me, but the way to deal with a river of this magnitude which decides to bestow its attention—first one side and then the other—will, I fear, always tax human ingenuity to the utmost.

I must thank you again for your addresses. Sirajganj is, I believe, the second largest jute mart in the province which proves your importance. I trust that your prosperity will continue to increase.

His Excellency's Speech at the East Bengal Saraswat Samaj Convocation on 24th July 1928.

LEARNED PUNDITS OF THE SARASWAT SAMAJ,

I appreciate the honour you have done me in again asking me to preside at your Convocation, and I am pleased to have this opportunity of showing by my presence, my continued interest in your welfare. I acknowledge the expression of your loyalty and devotion to the throne and person of His Majesty the King-Emperor.

To-day you celebrate the Jubilee of your Samaj, and looking back over the period of 50 years' endeavour, you have reason to be satisfied with the progress you have made and with the beneficial results through your unselfish devotion to piety and learning you have been able to extend to your people.

On such an occasion you must naturally think of those to whose efforts you owe your foundation, and to those who during this period have striven to keep the Samaj worthy of its objects and teachings. From the earliest days of your foundation you have always given to those who came to you the benefit of your teaching without any hope of remuneration, except the gratitude of the students. You clothed them, fed them and taught them and I can well understand the respect in which you are held throughout the province and the influence your teaching has had upon the *chitras*.

The importance of Sanskritic languages and the study of the culture that they represent is now well-established in European countries, and most of

of the leading Universities of England and the Continent possess Chairs in Sanskrit. But India is its ultimate home and you, Pundits, who have devoted your lives to the study of particular branches of Sanskritic subjects, have not only reached great proficiency in your respective fields of study, but it is also certain that you are engaged in handing on the torch of Brahminical learning from the dim past to the present day, in which we live and move, in a way that no other body of men could do. There are Sanskrit scholars in this country who have combined the methods and aims of Western learning with Eastern scholarships, and are carrying the fair name of India's past culture to the distant corners of the world, but it is you who, with the old selfless devotion to learning for its own sake, are holding the great Hindu mass loyal to their past and to their religious institutions and ideals.

I am interested to hear that in spite of charging a fee for the first time for candidates for Adya or the Primary examination, the number of students has not decreased and that the result of the examinations has been satisfactory. Your Samaj enjoys a very high reputation in Bengal and, so far as can be judged from the figures of your examinations, it seems that you maintain a high standard of scholarship. I, therefore, feel certain that the recipients of the rewards that are to be distributed this afternoon have earned them well, and that they deserve our congratulations on their well-earned success.

The Report of the Sanskrit College Committee to which you refer is still under the consideration

of my Government. Issues have been raised which are of far-reaching importance, involving considerable financial commitments, but I hope that such parts of it as are approved will be carried into effect without undue delay. Whatever steps Government may consider necessary for the improvement of Sanskritic culture will be taken as soon as funds become available for such purposes.

It is with deep regret that I learn of the loss that Sanskrit learning in Bengal has suffered at the death of the distinguished scholars and patrons of Sanskrit learning mentioned in your address. Losses such as these are often irreparable, and I can only trust that there are younger men who are able to step forward to fill the place of those whose deaths we mourn to-day.

I acknowledge, and once more thank you for, the warm and cordial reception that you have given me on this occasion, and I wish your Samaj continued prosperity and usefulness. I cannot allow this occasion of your Jubilee to pass without some acknowledgment of my interest and good wishes, and I ask to be allowed to subscribe Rs. 500 to your Samaj.

His Excellency's Reply to the Deputation received at Government House, Dacca, regarding the Partition of the Mymensingh District on 26th July 1928.

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you for the trouble you have taken in coming to Dacca for the purpose of personally placing before me the facts connected with the long-pending question of the partition of the district of Mymensingh. It shows how strongly you feel in the matter.

I have listened with interest to the history of the case as stated by you and have also gone through the records relating to the scheme. You say that on the recommendation of the District Administration Committee, Government committed itself to a scheme of tripartite division of Mymensingh, and I need not remind you how far Government proceeded to redeem its commitment. Government acquired lands, had plans and estimates of buildings prepared, appointed contractors for the manufacture of bricks and excavation of tanks, and would have completed the scheme of partition long ago, had the Legislative Council been prepared to vote the necessary finance. But they were not, and in consequence of a direct vote by the Council, the Government decided not to proceed with the scheme.

You are fully acquainted with the facts and the subsequent course of events and I need not repeat them. You state that each proposal for partition will be opposed by a small but influential section of the people having vested interests, but that the mass would welcome it. That may be so—but this is

not indicated by their representatives in Council. This brings us, I am afraid, no farther than where we were in 1921 when the Legislative Council rejected the proposal. A deputation waited upon my predecessor, Lord Lytton, when he visited Mymensingh in 1922, and I have little to add to what he said then. My advice to you is to see that the representatives of your district are persuaded to support the partition and to endeavour to induce the Legislative Council to reverse its decision and vote the necessary funds. Government are quite prepared to reopen the question in the interests of administrative efficiency, if and when the Legislative Council show by the carrying of a motion that they wish the scheme to be proceeded with. You mention that the financial position of the Presidency has improved. I was not aware of this. On the contrary, in reply to my question in connection with your representation, I am told flatly that it is impossible at this moment to find the money.

I am hoping to visit Mymensingh district at the beginning of the cold weather. Before then I shall make myself acquainted with all aspects of the case—both as to its necessity, desirability, urgency and feasibility.

From what I know at present and from all records it appears to be both necessary and urgent. Government have not been very fortunate in their efforts to improve administrative efficiency through partition, but it appears obvious that many of the districts are unwieldy and sooner or later they will have to be split up. I am pleased to have seen you, and I can assure you I shall not forget your recommendations and desires.

***His Excellency's Reply to the address
presented by the Khilgaon Union Board,
Dacca, on 26th July 1928.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very pleased to have this opportunity of visiting your Union Board to-day and have listened to the report of your work on the Board with much interest. I think I may take it that your Board is typical of the Union Boards which have been set up throughout this district, and from all I have heard the way in which you carry out your work as a Board is a good example as to how such work should be done.

It is most pleasing to hear that your Board consisting of four Hindus and five Muhammadans work in perfect harmony, inspired by the general interest of the community, whose welfare and contentment greatly depends upon your personal activities.

I am particularly interested to hear that part of your report which refers to primary education of young boys, and that your Board aids four primary schools and also that Munshi Ayebali, a member of the Board, has generously provided a plot of land, free of cost, for the erection of a school house at Khilgaon. I note that other public-spirited gentlemen have contributed for this purpose. I believe the future of political progress in Bengal depends upon the Union Boards. A Union Board is the simplest medium through which the people can be taught the real meaning of franchise and gradually

come to understand that within their power lies the provision of the ordinary amenities of life, such as roads, schools, medical relief, water-supply, and they are encouraged carefully to select the members of the Board from their midst who they are satisfied can best be entrusted to look after their interests.

I have great admiration for those gentlemen who come forward voluntarily to give their services in the interests of their communities. I feel sure that such work as you are now doing so well, will be a source of pride and satisfaction to all of you in the future. Government are watching the progress of Union Boards with anxious interest, and it is their duty to encourage in every way they can these Boards to assure efficient administration throughout the Presidency.

I have been impressed by the methods you have adopted for carrying out your work, which all appear to be good.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Maharaja
of Nadia Memorial Meeting at the Town
Hall on 30th July 1928.***

GENTLEMEN,

I can recall few occasions upon which I have risen to speak with feelings of such mixed emotion. I greatly regret the immediate cause of this memorial meeting, but I appreciate this opportunity of paying a small tribute to my friend and colleague—the late Maharaja Kshaunish Chandra Ray Bahadur, of Nadia, on such an occasion. This gathering, composed as it is of representatives of all classes and varying political views, is a striking tribute to the universal regard in which the late Maharaja was held.

When I arrived in Bengal the Maharaja already occupied a high position in political life as Member of the Bengal Executive Council, and on the retirement of Sir James Donald it was my privilege to appoint him as my Vice-President. My personal acquaintance with him quickly enabled me to appreciate his attractive personality which so strongly appealed to all who came in contact with him. Experience of his work soon impressed me that his natural ability, coupled with a keen sense of duty, provided that capacity for administration which all who worked with him admired.

A member of one of the oldest and most respected families in Bengal, his first thought was for his country and its welfare. As an influential and generous landlord he understood the needs of the

raiyats and was a ready advocate of any measures introduced for the amelioration of their condition. Though a man of broad outlook, he had the strength of his convictions and did not hesitate to follow the line which he believed to be right, regardless of unpopularity, and loss of friends. His future was full of promise and by his death Bengal has been bereft of a valued and illustrious citizen. The esteem in which his services to Bengal were held by Government was demonstrated by the signal mark of honour His Majesty had agreed to bestow upon him and which would have been his but for his untimely end. You will do well to place on record this evening your high appreciation of the character and services of such a worthy son of Bengal.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the Bengal Legislative Council on 31st
July 1928.***

GENTLEMEN,

In view of the important nature of the subjects with which the Council will be asked to deal during this session, I have thought it advisable to take advantage of my privilege of addressing the members to-day.

The list of business before the Council is a formidable one. There are six non-official Bills, six Government Bills and three Supplementary Demands, and I should like to refer briefly to some of the more important subjects in the list.

The Council will be asked to consider the Bengal Tenancy Amendment Bill of 1928. I do not know if I can refer to this Bill as an old friend, but in view of it having been before the Council in one form or another since 1926, I gather that most of you have at least a nodding acquaintance with it. Some anxiety was shown by members during the last session as regards the delay in proceeding with this Bill.

The Select Committee appointed by the last Council submitted their report as far back as July 1926, but I understand that when the Bill emerged from the Select Committee, it was so amended as to make it almost unrecognizable as the original Bill, and important general principles were seriously affected. Under these circumstances, Government thought it necessary to refer the report of the Committee to a Special Committee to be examined in

detail.. This Committee included an eminent Judge of the High Court who has lately been officiating as a Member of the Executive Council.

The main provisions of the Bill which aim at granting substantial rights to under-raiyats, and the recognition of the transferability of the holdings of occupancy tenants, are bound to be of far-reaching consequence. All agricultural interests must be affected by them and specially the vast agricultural population of the province, the bulk of whom are unfortunately still illiterate and unable to voice their own needs. Government cannot, therefore, be blamed for proceeding with special caution. The trend of legal decisions have convinced Government in their conclusion that the necessity for such a measure becomes more apparent every year. Government have now decided to ask the Council to take the Bill into consideration forthwith, though, I believe, there are some who consider that there is still work for a Select Committee to-day—that is for the House to decide. I hope the result of your deliberations will be to place upon the Statute Book a measure which will equitably meet all interests and prove of lasting benefit upon all those dependent upon agriculture in this Presidency.

Another Bill which will be before the Council is the Bengal Rural Primary Education Bill. There must be general agreement as to the urgent need in rural Bengal for a sound and practical system of primary education. I fear it has to be admitted that, as far as primary education is concerned, progress in this Presidency does not compare favourably with other provinces in India, though one recognizes that we have been faced with

exceptional difficulties. I find that the percentage of expenditure by some Governments to the total Provincial Revenues upon primary education is—

	Per cent.
Bombay	... 6 •
Bihar and Orissa	... 5·1
Punjab	... 3·6
Bengal	... 1·6

The present system of primary education, though made the most of, is inadequate: the teaching is inefficient and the distribution of schools unsystematic: teachers are under-paid and large numbers of the pupils, who attend primary schools, leave the schools before having received even the most elementary instruction, and consequently lapse into illiteracy.

In any country primary education should be regarded as the foundation of national life and progress. It ought to be the primary consideration. The efficiency of secondary and University education must to a very large extent be affected by the conditions of primary education. The introduction of a system of universal primary education in Bengal is anxiously and earnestly demanded by those communities who suffer from comparative backwardness in education.

The Bill before the Council has been carefully drawn with special regard to the conditions existent to-day throughout the Presidency. Some of the provisions of the Bill may not meet with general approval, but I hope that the Council will accept this Bill as a foundation upon which a larger and fuller system can be gradually built. By so doing you can hold out a reasonable hope to the

children of Bengal of an opportunity of education without which their future prospects in life must indeed be dark and hopeless.

You will be asked to vote demands for increase of pay of jail warders amounting to Rs. 38,592. This is in accordance with the recommendation of the Indian Jails Committee, 1919-20, and the Bengal Jails Enquiry Committee of 1927.

I can say from experience of my visits to jails throughout the Presidency that the grant is very urgently necessary in the interest of efficiency and to meet the reasonable expectation of the men placed in such a position.

You will also be asked to sanction a grant of Rs. 5,37,000 to meet the cost of the proposals which have been submitted to Government for an increase in the scales of pay of some of the lower ranks of the Bengal and the Calcutta Police, in order to maintain these ranks at full strength and efficiency. These proposals have been conceived in the best interests of all classes of the community, and have received the approval of Government as a whole after most careful consideration, and I trust that the demand for the money required to meet the expenditure thereon during the last four months of the current financial year will be acceded to by the Council.

The other supplementary demands come under the head of Famine Relief and Insurance. I followed with care the debate which took place in the Council at the beginning of this month. We are all aware, especially those who have been in the areas affected, of the unfortunate distress which has arisen in certain areas in this Presidency through

scarcity owing to failure of last year's monsoons. The Government have made every endeavour to meet the requirements reported by their officers in the various districts affected. The charge which falls upon those whose responsibility it is to investigate, report and make demands upon Government, is not an enviable one and it would certainly be unfair to suggest that their natural sympathy and judgment in cases of distress, are any less than those of others who are not officially responsible. From all accounts which can be relied upon, Government are satisfied that the officers in the districts have carried out their difficult duties well and have supplied a correct appreciation of the situation of each district. Government have complied with all the demands made by the local officers.

The policy of Government has been and is, that in cases of serious distress caused by scarcity the full demand of the officers on the spot must be met regardless of other requirements, however urgent they may be. A sum of six lakhs and-a-half only was originally provided in the Budget for agricultural loans and the Hon'ble Finance Member has provided a further sum of Rs. 8,25,000 by reappropriation. Government will continue to watch the situation with the utmost vigilance and sympathy.

There is one more subject to which I must refer. A year ago I made a statement with reference to the detenus under restraint under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act and Regulation III. I was then able to announce considerable progress in the number of men released during the first eight months of last year and I expressed a hope that the rate of gradual release then operating would

continue. This gradual release has continued and is continuing to-day. The figures are—

In jail	...	...	...	Nil.
In village domicile	...	...	...	8
In home domicile	...	...	...	4
Externed from certain areas	...	...	...	2
Externed from Bengal	...	...	...	2
			—	
Making a total of	...	...	16	—

Provided nothing unforeseen occurs at the present rate of release now operating, this number of 16 should be gradually reduced, if not completely wiped out, in the course of a few weeks.

It has been my good fortune to see nothing but reduction in the numbers of persons detained under the special Act which the Government were reluctantly forced to introduce to meet exceptional conditions. No one will be more pleased than I when the record shows that there is not one man under restraint under the operation of this Act and what applies to me in this respect equally applies to all those who have been responsible for the working of this Act. I sincerely trust that a movement which was met, and in similar circumstances would always have to be met, by exceptional measures, however repugnant it might be to Government to use them, will not again develop to the infinite harm of the province.

Gentlemen, if I were asked what I consider, after 16 months' experience and observation in the province, the most pressing and urgent needs of Bengal and what reforms might be calculated to

bring the greatest good to the greatest number of its inhabitants, I should be inclined to express the view—

- (1) a full and efficient system of primary education;
- (2) encouragement to the cultivators of the soil and the amelioration of their conditions, and
- (3) irrigation.

It appears to me that the opportunity of making a start upon two of these problems is now before the Council. Serious consideration of the third subject, in my judgment, cannot be long delayed. The control of the great waterways, unsurpassed in magnitude in the world, in places where for six months in the year there is too much water and six months much too little, is a task which would tax the ingenuity of man to the utmost, but I do believe there are great possibilities from a determined effort in connection with minor schemes.

The two Bills which are before you and to which I have referred, supply a foundation upon which schemes for the future can be fashioned, which should help to bring some prosperity and contentment to the teeming millions throughout Bengal.

I thank you for the attention with which you have listened to me and I trust that the result of your deliberations will prove to the general welfare of the province and its people.

His Excellency's Address at the Annual Convocation of the Dacca University on 26th August 1928.

VICE-CHANCELLOR AND GENTLEMEN,

A year ago I had the honour of addressing you for the first time as Chancellor. Since then I have had opportunities of making myself better acquainted with the activities of this University and the part it plays in the educational life of this Presidency. Better acquaintance has certainly increased my personal interest in its welfare, and my admiration for the steady progress it is making, which I will do my best to foster and encourage.

We have listened to your speech, Vice-Chancellor, with much interest, and the record of achievements which you are able to report in various directions during the past year, should give cause for satisfaction. There are several subjects which you mentioned in your speech to which I should like to refer. I am pleased to hear that the raising of two platoons of the University Officers' Training Corps has been sanctioned by the Government of India and that there has already been a satisfactory enrolment from amongst the students and the staff.

An Officers' Training Corps is a useful and interesting addition to University life, and I am glad to see that both platoons are already up to strength.

You refer to the increase in the number of students reading Law at the University, which has occurred since the reorganization of the Department of Law. The legal profession must always look to

the Universities for its members. To-day I believe the profession in India as elsewhere is somewhat overcrowded, though I do not suppose that the demands for its assistance will grow less as time goes on.

The attendance of women students at the University is an interesting feature and your efforts to provide for the education and training of women, to enable them to take their share in the progressive life of India, deserve every encouragement. I shall watch with interest the development of the Women's Hostel.

During the last few years higher education of women throughout the world has made rapid progress. Fifty or 60 years ago public higher education of women in the West was not much further advanced than it is to-day in India, whereas the higher education of women to-day occupies the attention of educationists equally with that of men. An educated and enlightened womanhood is a natural corollary to progress in every country.

You refer to the satisfaction felt by members of the University at the commencement of the construction of a Moslem Hall. When completed, this building should prove a most important addition to this University. It is sure to be greatly welcomed by the Moslem community, as it should provide special facilities for Moslems for the acquisition of knowledge and for the development of corporate life in a way which, I believe, is not forthcoming in any similar University in India. I would here venture to express the hope that those of you who live the University life under these conditions will not

forget that their first obligation is to the University of which they are members.

It is possible that there may be an inclination to confine your activities to the particular Hall of which you are members, but you must remember that the University depends upon all its members—whatever their caste or creed may be—giving it their loyal interest and support in every field of its activities.

I should like to reinforce your expressions of gratitude to those Muhammadan gentlemen who have shown their interest in the Moslem Hall by substantial donations. Special thanks are due to the Nawab of Dacca and Mr. Syed Abdul Hafiz for their generous support and help for the poorer students. This help should assure the continuation of the tradition, which has characterised this University since its inception, of sending individual graduates to the Universities in England.

I can fully appreciate your desire for the establishment of a Department of Botany and Bacteriology. I have great sympathy with your wishes in this respect and so has the Government. The co-ordination of the practical activities of the Agricultural Department with those of an academic institution, such as this University, is most desirable. Every encouragement should be given to the students to look to agriculture, upon which more than 80 per cent. of the people depend, as a field in which their activities can find worthy employment. I regard the setting up of these departments as of "first class importance and one which should receive the favourable consideration of Government at the earliest possible moment. I have

seen the building in which it is proposed to locate the departments and it would appear that the cost of establishing these departments would not be excessive.

The delay in obtaining Government sanction is due to the necessity of arriving at an estimate of the ultimate cost not only of the new departments of the University, but also of any connected development at the agricultural farm.

The control of Secondary and Intermediate education which has been receiving the consideration of your University Councils, is a question of exceptional importance. At the moment I am not able to express any definite views, but Government fully realizes the desirability, in the best interests of general education, that a satisfactory solution of this problem should be found. They are at present taking steps to ensure that Secondary education shall be suitably controlled.

Government are disposed to agree with the opinion of the Councils that powers of control of Secondary education should be exercised by a single authority. You may rest assured that Government will welcome the views of the Councils of the University on these questions, and I feel they must be largely guided by the advice they receive from these quarters.

The control of Intermediate education in the Dacca University area is at present under consideration of Government, and before any decision is arrived at, the University Councils will be consulted.

On behalf of the University I congratulate the two gentlemen who are being honoured by the

conferment of honorary degrees. Khan Bahadur Maulvi Tasaddak Ahmad, B.A., B.T., possesses a long record of valuable service to Secondary education in Bengal. Among many other educational appointments which he held under Government, the Khan Bahadur was for a period of about eight years Head Master of the Dacca Collegiate School when his work was of great importance in maintaining and raising the standard of High School education. Mr. Charu Chandra Bandyopadhyaya has been a Lecturer in the Department of Sanskritic Studies and Bengali since 1924, and for the past 15 or 20 years has distinguished himself by his contributions to Bengali literature and by his work as Assistant Editor of the *Prabasi* and the *Modern Review*.

I must also congratulate all those who have proceeded to their degrees to-day. Many of you are now leaving the University and going forth into the larger and more difficult life. I hope the knowledge and experience you have acquired here will prove of benefit and assistance to you in the future.

A question which must always be the cause of anxious thought to those responsible for the administration of an University, is how best to assure that the time and effort expended at an University, in order to equip oneself for the struggle of life, have not been in vain. Since I have been in India I have been impressed by the concern in many quarters at the difficulty of finding employment for those who have graduated at the various Universities, and the consequent disappointment and discouragement. This state of affairs is not peculiar to India, though, I believe, it exists more acutely here than in Western countries.

That the position is serious I agree, but I do not think it should be regarded as incapable of solution. It is largely an economic question. The number of students who go to the Universities cannot be governed by the law of supply and demand for their services after their University career. They come to the University to take advantage of a training and education which they hope will enable them successfully to compete in the struggle of life. The employment of the class of young men who pass through the University depends, just as much as the employment of any other class, upon the development and progress of the country and to this end the co-operation of the best brains is necessary, and the assistance which the Universities can give, is a potent factor in national progress. It is, I think, necessary that the Universities look ahead and fashion their teaching in accordance with the rapidly changing conditions in the world.

During the last few years the march of science has inspired inventions and discoveries of a staggering nature and in some respects seems likely to revolutionize the world. An instance which occurs to me is the perfection of the internal combustion engine which, with progressive scientific study of aeronautics, has enabled man to claim that he has almost conquered the air. Who can say what the effect of this will be upon the future of transport and who can accurately visualize the conditions of travel and transport 20 or 10, even five years hence, specially in such a country as India? We may justifiably anticipate great developments in aviation throughout the world. The discovery of the secrets of ether that surrounds the earth has enabled every

kind of sound to be distributed broadcast through methods invisible to the human eye and almost incomprehensible to the uninitiated in the intricacies of wireless.

It seems possible that you here may be able to listen to a lecture delivered at one of the great Universities in England and *vice versa*. These new services are sure to develop and will need new men.

In congratulating you and wishing you success in life I must not forget Mr. Ghose, *victor ludorum*, to whom I had the honour of presenting the cup the other day.

It is customary for the Chancellor on these occasions to venture to give some advice to those on the University. There are certain attributes which I suggest one should continuously strive to acquire during life at the University and which may help in whatever path of life you tread. One which I believe you would find most useful is to be able to discern quickly between the real and the make-believe, between fact and fiction, between the true and the false. One is faced with such decisions almost everyday of one's life. I believe you will find success in life easier to attain if you can recognize and face realities and pin your faith upon facts and truth.

His Excellency's Addresses to the Recipients of Sanads at the Durbar at Dacca on 27th August 1928.

SARDAR BAHADUR SUBADAR-MAJOR GANESH BAHADUR CHETTRI,

You have a record of service of over 32 years in the Eastern Frontier Rifles, of which you have been an officer for more than 14 years. You did specially good recruiting work in 1896-97, 1897-98 and 1912-13 and served in the Mishmi Mission in 1911-12. As a keen and reliable officer you have gained the respect of all ranks and have been of great assistance to the Commandant. Your long and loyal services merit the bestowal of the title of Sardar Bahadur, of which I have great pleasure in handing you the *sanad*.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI ABDUL GHAFFAR,

You have been a Member of the Bengal Civil Service (Executive) for more than 24 years and in 1922 received the title of Khan Sahib. As a Magistrate of the Alipore Suburban Court, you have discharged your duties with great tact and efficiency. Your distinguished service fully merits your advancement to the higher title of Khan Bahadur. I congratulate you.

RAI UMESH CHANDRA CHAKLADAR BAHADUR.

You have rendered distinguished services in numerous honorary capacities such as Honorary Magistrate, Vice-Chairman of the Mymensingh Municipality, Member of the District Board, Member

of the Surjya Kanta Hospital Committee, Director of the Central Co-operative Bank, Honorary Organizer of Co-operative Societies and Secretary and Treasurer of the Victory Celebrations at Mymensingh. You were made a Rai Sahib in 1923 and since then you have been indefatigable in your exertions in the cause of charity having raised over Rs. 30,000 towards hospital extensions. As a further mark of recognition of your long and eminent services, Government have been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Bahadur.

RAI NALINI KANTA SEN BAHADUR.

You have been the Government Pleader of Faridpur since 1923, in which position you have rendered valuable and satisfactory service. You have been a Municipal Commissioner and also a Member of the District Board. You rendered valuable assistance to Government as Treasurer of the Cyclone Relief Committee in 1919-20 and during the non-co-operation movement, energetically used your influence to counteract its effect in your district. You have done specially valuable work in connection with the building and organization of the Ishan High English School, Faridpur, the growth and present reputation of which are largely due to your energy and activities. Your public services have deservedly earned for you the title of •Rai Bahadur.

RAI KSHITIS CHANDRA GUHA BAHADUR,

For five years you have been Chairman of the Dacca District Board, having been an elected member for 22 consecutive years. As Chairman, you have shown great perseverance and ability, and

under your guidance the District Board has worked harmoniously and successfully in the interests of their people. During your tenure of office water-works were established at Nangalbandh mainly through your efforts. Your long and continued interest fully deserves the recognition which I now have the pleasure to hand you.

RAI MAHENDRA NARAYAN RAY CHAUDHURI BAHADUR,

As a resident zamindar in the district of Faridpur, you have generously supported all kinds of charitable institutions and works of public utility. You have also landed interests in Bakarganj district where you contribute half the cost of maintenance of a High English school at Bauphal and gave a substantial contribution towards the proposed Barisal Medical School. The High English school at Bairashi in Faridpur was constructed by you at a cost of Rs. 50,000 and is largely maintained by your contributions. The High English school at Nagarkanda is also maintained by you. The whole cost of the establishment and maintenance of the Jay Kishori Charitable Dispensary at Bairashi is met by you, and the dispensaries at Nagarkanda and Faridpur also receive your support. You also liberally contributed to the Faridpur Lytton Water-works and the Rajendra College. Your services as a nominated member of the District Board of Faridpur and as Vice-President of the Faridpur Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, 1926, and as President of the Faridpur Union Board have been very commendable. You also give your willing support and help to the local authorities. I am

very glad to see that your public services have been recognized by the award of the title of Rai Bahadur.

RAI NARENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI BAHADUR,

You entered the Bengal Police as a Sub-Inspector 32 years ago and were promoted to the Provincial Police Service in 1916. For your valuable services you were given the title of Rai Sahib in 1925. You proved yourself a most capable officer while acting in the superior scale of the Indian (Imperial) Police Service and the title of Rai Bahadur was a further mark of appreciation of your long and faithful service.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI ABDUL JALIL KHAN,

You entered the service as a Sub-Deputy Collector in 1909 and were promoted to be a Deputy Magistrate in 1916. Your earlier services were recognized by the grant of the title of Khan Sahib in 1920. Since then your distinguished services in the Bengal Co-operative Department have fully warranted your advancement to the higher title of Khan Bahadur.

RAI AMAL KRISHNA MUKHARJI BAHADUR,

You were awarded the title of Rai Sahib in 1921 for your good work during the Cyclone of 1919. You also rendered valuable services in connection with flood relief operations in 1922-23 while you were Subdivisional Officer of Nator, and since then you have occupied positions of responsibility with marked success and have maintained your high reputation. The title of Rai Bahadur is a fitting recognition of your uniformly meritorious service.

RAI TARAK CHANDRA CHATTARJEE BAHADUR.,

You have been associated with the Faridpur Municipality since 1922, having occupied the position as Vice-Chairman and then as Chairman, which position you still hold. The success of the Faridpur Waterworks scheme has been almost entirely due to your zeal and persistence in the face of very considerable difficulties. You are always prepared to co-operate with the local officers and have shown commendable personal energy in dealing with epidemics of Cholera and Small-pox. Your public service merits this distinction which has been awarded to you.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI RAMIJUDDIN AHMED,

You have done much excellent work in the cause of village self-government. As President of the Mehendiganj Union Board, you have been conspicuously successful, and your interest in rural welfare and the services rendered by you fully deserved recognition.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI MAFAKHARUL ISLAM,

You enjoy a position of considerable influence in your locality, which you exercise in the interests of your community. Your services during the non-co-operation movement were much appreciated. You have also the reputation of being one of the most capable Marriage Registrars and Kazis and your personal influence helped considerably in popularizing the Marriage Registration Act.

RAI SAHIB SHYAMA CHARAN BHADMICK,

You have rendered valuable services in the cause of local self-government. As President of the

Aminpur Union Board, you have done very successful work, and you exercise great influence locally. You are the Founder and Secretary of the Bhattacharjee Mahamaya District Board Charitable Dispensary to which you made a very generous contribution. Your valuable services have merited recognition.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI HAMIDUR RAHMAN,

Having joined the service 28 years ago in a non-gazetted position you have risen to the rank of Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector. You did exceptionally good work in the Co-operative Department, first as Assistant Registrar, Chittagong Division, and then as Deputy Chairman, Naogaon Ganja Cultivators' Co-operative Society. You have always enjoyed the confidence of all classes of people you have worked with and have well earned the title of Khan Sahib.

KHAN SAHIB QUAZI MUHAMMAD MUHI-UD-DIN,

You have served Government for more than 27 years and the conspicuous zeal and ability with which you have performed your duties as a Revenue Officer have earned for you the title of Khan Sahib.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI ABDUL GAFUR,

As President of the Hamirdi Union Board in the district of Faridpur you have discharged your duties very creditably. You also take a very keen interest in other movements, such as improvement of agriculture, education and public health. You gave loyal support to Government during the non-co-operation movement and gave considerable assistance to the local officers during the recent communal trouble.

RAI SAHIB MANORANJAN MITRA.

As officiating Vice-Principal of the Teachers' Training College, Dacca, you have done excellent work, especially in matters connected with the organization of teaching in the college and also with the education of boys and girls in Dacca town, which has won for you the distinction conferred upon you.

RAI SAHIB SURENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI,

Having entered the Police Department as a Sub-Inspector you received promotion to the rank of Inspector through your consistently good work. You also acquitted yourself well in officiating vacancies as Deputy Superintendent of Police. You rendered remarkably conspicuous service in connection with the investigation of a number of important cases and in dealing with outbreaks of serious crime. In the District Intelligence Branch your work has been very valuable. You have well earned the distinction conferred upon you.

RAI SAHIB SATYENDRA KUMAR BOSE,

Your varied experience of office work stood you in good stead when you rose to the responsible position of Head Assistant of the Education Department in the Bengal Secretariat. By your long and meritorious service you have richly deserved the distinction conferred upon you.

RAI SAHIB DINESH CHANDRA GANGULI,

You have done exceptionally good work as President of the Ichhapura Union Board which is one of the best in the Munshiganj subdivision.

You also gave great assistance to the local officers in the days of the non-co-operation movement.

MR. PROTAP CHANDRA SEN,

You have been a most zealous and efficient Health Officer and have rendered much social service. As Secretary of the General Committee of the Dacca Maternity and Child Welfare Trust, you have done your work with marked keenness and ability, and it gives me great pleasure to hand you the *Kaisar-i-Hind* Medal, Second Class, which has been awarded to you.

His Excellency's Speech at 'the Police Parade, Dacca, on 28th August 1928.

OFFICERS AND MEN OF BENGAL POLICE, AND EASTERN BENGAL RIFLES—

I welcome this opportunity of attending this Police Parade. Since I met you last year I have been able to make myself better acquainted with the work of the Police Forces in Bengal and the conditions under which they are called upon to perform their duties. All records go to show that the Forces are efficient, the discipline good and they carry out their duties to the general satisfaction of the public in whose interests they exist and are maintained. The record of disciplinary action under the Police Act throughout the Forces continues to be exceptionally low.

It is satisfactory to know that during the past year this Presidency has been relatively free from serious communal disturbances which so severely test the discipline of the Forces, but the unfortunate labour troubles at Lillooah in the Howrah district, which were serious and protracted, cast upon the Police the most exacting tasks, when discipline, decision and loyalty were put to the highest test.

These disturbances necessitated the drafting into the disturbed areas of large bodies of Police from all parts of the Presidency. The conditions under which they had to operate were trying and difficult, and a severe test to their efficiency and endurance. On behalf of Government I am glad to be able to congratulate the officers and men upon the performance of their duties under exceptionally difficult

conditions. I can also express Government's satisfaction with the general conduct and efficiency of the whole Force throughout the Presidency.

For some time Government have been considering the conditions under which the Forces are called upon to perform their duties, especially the questions of housing and pay. When at the beginning of this year, Government were asked to consider the increase in the pay of the Police in Calcutta and Bengal, the serious financial stringency in the Province and the many demands for urgent social requirements caused Government to look long and anxiously at the proposal from every point of view before coming to a decision. Government would not have felt justified in supporting this demand unless they had been absolutely convinced that the matter was one which brooked no further delay. It was only after most careful scrutiny they came to the conclusion that in the interests of the public, and the efficiency of the service which they demand and expect from the Police, improved conditions for the Force were essential.

At the beginning of the present session in the Legislative Council the Hon'ble Member presented a demand for funds to meet an increase of pay of the Bengal and Calcutta Police. The amount of increase was based upon the comparative pay of the Police Forces in other Provinces throughout India and also upon the general scale of wages in this Presidency for services carrying neither the responsibility nor the hardships of the Police. The Hon'ble Member in his speech demonstrated that the conditions offered were not attractive to recruits suitable for such responsible public service and that the resignations

from the Forces were increasing proved to be due to the inadequacy of the remuneration for the service demanded. It was with feelings of regret that I heard that the demand had not received the approval of the Council—a step which would cause the Government to be unable to fulfil their declared intention to give what was generally agreed a fair and reasonable payment for such service. I appreciate the reasons given during the debate for refusing the grant, especially those which referred to the distress which existed in certain areas of the Presidency. But in view of my definite statement at the opening of the Council—that the policy of Government had been and was—that every demand put forward by our responsible officers for funds to meet distress caused by the failure of the monsoon had been and would be met in priority to all other requirements, I do not think this argument was convincing.

Provision of this demand would in no way have affected Government's obligations towards these distressed areas. Under the circumstances I felt that I must seriously consider my responsibility for the subject. After careful review of the position in all its aspects, I have decided that it is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the subject that I should exercise my powers under section 72D (a) and certify the demand.

I congratulate the Parade upon their smart turn out which indicates good training and efficiency. You are worthy of and entitled to that requisite of police efficiency, the confidence of the public you serve. I must congratulate all those who are recommended for rewards.

There is one recipient of the King's Police Medal. This is an honour not lightly bestowed and in this particular instance of Mr. Meerza, it has been well earned through long service and conspicuous qualities of conduct and leadership.

I trust that the present efficient condition of the Police Forces throughout the Presidency may continue under, I hope, improved conditions.

His Excellency's Speech at the Conference of Presidents of Panchayats and Union Boards on 30th August 1928.

GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful for your address to which I have listened with much pleasure. I consider it a privilege to be present at this gathering to-day of the Presidents of Panchayats and Union Boards. The large number present shows great interest and is most encouraging and adds to its importance.

I am specially interested in all forms of Local Self-Government, as I believe that this sphere of administration forms the only basis upon which higher administration can be soundly and firmly established. You claim that the district of Dacca is the most advanced in Bengal in the matter of Local Self-Government. Your records go to show that you are justified in making this claim as you have the largest number of Union Boards so far established in any district in the Province, and I am glad to hear that there are indications that the popularity of these Boards and their usefulness are being recognized by the people.

You refer to my recent visit to the Khilgaon Union. My visit gave me an interesting insight into village administration and I was much impressed with what I saw. It was quite clear that the work was being carried on with enthusiasm and solely in the interest of the people for whom the Board felt themselves responsible.

I heard with much interest the record of expenditure of the Union Boards throughout this district. It shows that the main expenditure is for those three services upon which the welfare of rural life mostly depends, namely, communication, water-supply and education which is as it should be. The work done by the Union Benches and Courts has been most satisfactory and the progress which has been made, in the course of hardly ten years since the Union Boards first came into existence, is most commendable.

Like most Government institutions, you find yourselves short of funds with which to meet urgent requirements. Under section 45 of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, the District Board must make advances to Union Boards, but the District Board finds it difficult to do so. The District Boards can give financial help to Union Boards in other ways than making grants-in-aid. If they cannot give, they can lend, and if their own balances are not large enough to enable them to grant loans to Union Boards, Government will be prepared to advance the money for the purpose to such an extent as the state of the provincial balances permits. In the main, Union Boards must depend upon themselves for funds to finance their beneficent activities. They have powers of taxation, which are almost unlimited, and they can realize from each according to his means. The burden of taxation on the poorer elements in the rural population is probably not capable of increase, but those who can afford it must expect to pay their fair proportion.

I am glad to hear of the good work which has been done under the Rural Public Health

Organization in the control of epidemics. It is hoped that the organization will be in full swing by the end of 1929-30 and that by that time it will be possible to furnish all the rural thanas in the plains of Bengal with public health staff. •

There is just one question to which I would like to refer and that is the provision of good water. When I was at Khilgaon, I saw a tube-well which has been recently sunk by the Union Board at a cost of Rs. 300. Though I understand the conditions for sinking were favourable, it was very well done and well worth the expenditure entailed. I notice that one of the resolutions to be placed before the Conference is that the District Board should keep a set of boring apparatus for use of Union Boards who want to make tube-wells. I think this is a good suggestion, but as success depends largely on the selection of site, and the quality of materials used, the District Board would be well advised to furnish expert advice to Union Boards on the subject.

When it is remembered that Union Boards have come into being during the last nine years and are still looked on with suspicion in some parts of the Province, the record of progress made is most satisfactory and reflects the greatest credit upon those who carry on the administration of village self-government in Dacca District. But whatever may be the state of things elsewhere, no matter what misunderstanding and misrepresentations may have occurred to thwart progress, the people of Dacca district are to be congratulated in that they have consistently turned a deaf ear to mischievous and misleading propaganda and are to-day reaping the

benefit of their foresight and intelligence. I hope you will continue your good work and that the people will learn to appreciate your unselfish efforts for the general welfare. As I said earlier in my remarks, the capacity which you have exhibited for carrying the responsibility of local administration is a hopeful sign for the future. Union Boards have introduced the ideas of Local Self-Government into villages, as nothing else could have done, and the elector is slowly learning the value of the vote and how to use it. Progress will be slow and it will need repeated elections before it is fully understood. The work of Local Self-Government—District Boards, Local Boards, Municipalities or Union Boards—must be the training ground for the future political leaders and administrators of Bengal. You are to discuss various questions of importance to-day. I hope the result of your deliberations will prove useful.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of the Dacca Central Co-operative
Bank on 4th September 1928.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am pleased to have the opportunity of taking part on the occasion of the opening of the new Bank buildings of the Dacca Central Co-operative Bank.

I have listened to the report and history of this Bank with much interest, and I congratulate you upon the progress you have made and the satisfactory position you find yourselves in to-day.

The history of the Bank is a record of steady and sound progress which has enabled you to achieve definite results and attract public confidence in its management. You have now a capital of 8½ lakhs and are in possession of your own buildings.

You rightly refer in your report to the obligation the Bank is under to Khan Bahadur Kazi Zahirul Huq, who was the first Secretary, and after holding the post for several years became the Chairman of the Bank. Although the Khan Bahadur has now retired from the directorate, he still takes a keen interest in the welfare of the Bank for which you have every reason to be grateful.

The success of such a Bank as this depends on the efficiency, not only of the Directors, but also of the paid staff, both indoor and outdoor. I understand that recently qualifications have been prescribed for the paid staff of Central Banks—a move in the

right direction. The Bengal Co-operative Organization Society has now opened training classes, and has been vested with the authority to grant certificates of competency to paid Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries and Supervisors employed by the Central Banks. I hope that the Bengal Co-operative Organization Society will receive support from all kinds of societies.

Your Bank has evidently shown great initiative and enterprise in view of the fact that you have overcome your difficulties without any monetary assistance from Government, and have successfully established your credit so as to be able to raise sufficient funds at a low rate of interest and to secure current deposits, without interest, averaging two lakhs per annum.

Another instance of your enterprise is the introduction of the rebate system. This was a scheme to encourage regular payments instead of enforcing penalty interest, as provided by the bye-laws, for defaulting societies. This rebate system has proved successful and I understand that other Central Banks have now followed your example as the poor cultivators undoubtedly benefit by this new system and it is a good example of the true spirit of co-operation.

The benefit to be obtained from the co-operative system in Bengal has, I think, been definitely established. The rate of interest charged is reasonable and the system of easy payments in kists is an inducement to agriculturists to form societies. As you say in your address, the spread of the movement has lowered the general rate of interest and has given relief to the general public.

I listened with care and attention to your reference to the present system of audit of co-operative societies. I understand the question of strengthening the audit staff, according to the full requirements, is now under the consideration of Government. I think you may rest assured that the matter will be dealt with sympathetically and with due regard to the fees which are levied from the societies, and to the question of the financial assistance, which the societies may reasonably expect from Government, on account of audit of societies which are exempted by Government from payment of such fees.

Since my arrival in this country, I have studied with keen interest the progress of the co-operative movement. I believe that the economic improvement of the people is inseparably bound up with the progress of the co-operative movement. The movement hitherto appears to have been somewhat one-sided, but now that a sound system of credit has been established, the movement is developing in various directions and I hope that the Dacca Central Bank will take its part in developing forms of co-operation other than credit. A well-developed system of co-operative marketing of agricultural produce is an object which should be aimed at without delay. No doubt co-operative marketing is attended with considerable difficulty, but if a real effort is made in all quarters, I should anticipate that it would be proved that co-operative marketing, working closely with co-operative credit—the credit movement now established, would be materially strengthened and repayments automatically ensured.

The importance of the co-operative movement in India is beyond question. In 1926-27, there were in British India 67,000 agricultural primary societies, with 2½ million members and a working capital of 25 crores of rupees. The results achieved are provision of capital at a reasonable rate of interest and the organization of a system of rural credit for the general benefit of the cultivators. The movement deserves encouragement.

I congratulate you on this fine building which I now have the pleasure to declare open and I wish the Central Bank all success.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Armistice
Day Dinner on 10th November 1928.***

GENTLEMEN,

I now have the honour to propose the toast of His Majesty's Forces.

This toast is, I know, assured of a cordial reception at a gathering such as this.

All here to-night have served in one capacity or another with His Majesty's Forces and it is but natural that we should feel a special interest in their well-being.

In these days I can well believe there are some who may regard this toast as incongruous and out of tune with modern sentiment, in that they regard the Forces solely in the light of being an instrument for War; but we know—and especially *ye in India*—that the Imperial Forces exist, and are necessary under present conditions, for the preservation of peace, and there can be few in India who would assert that they would feel that peace was equally secure without the Forces as with them.

There is no question that the experience of the great War caused a strong feeling of revolt against War. Economic necessity throughout the world demanded immediate relief from the burden of armaments. The peoples of the British Empire were as greatly concerned in this as any other countries in the world and they have demonstrated their sincerity by action—an example not so widely followed in other directions as might have been

expected. There is no people for whom Peace is of greater necessity than the British whose policy will always be directed to its maintenance and security.

But I believe it is generally felt that the defence Forces of the Empire reduced as they now are to the minimum, consistent with the obligations and responsibilities we have to carry, cannot be further reduced and be able adequately to fulfil their purpose.

The toast of His Majesty's Forces is a comprehensive one.

I remember the time well when it would have been covered by a reference to the Navy, Army and Auxiliary Forces, mostly confined to the British Isles and India, but to-day we must add to the regular Forces the Air Force—not by any means the least important—and to the Auxiliaries, the Mercantile Marine.

Embraced within this toast are the Forces in every portion of His Majesty's dominions.

From the toast list I notice still another branch which might be included within this toast—The Women Workers of the War. Experience in the late War demonstrated the essential value of their assistance. They are not represented here to-night, but their interests have been placed in most capable hands, and the gentlemen who are to propose and respond to their toast have no doubt had the honour conferred upon them because of their well-known experience of, and admiration for, their qualities. Whenever and wherever this toast is honoured, we should not forget that there is no branch of His Majesty's Forces more cordially included than the

Indian Army. We are all proud of our Indian comrades of the Army, and they have consistently shown that they are equally proud of being the trusted soldiers of the King-Emperor.

It is my pleasure to couple with this toast the name of General Sir John Shea, the General Officer Commanding, Eastern Command. Sir John is here to-night on his first visit to Bengal in that capacity.

Last year we were honoured by the presence of his predecessor, General Sir George Barrow, whose charming personality and characteristic speech we all have reason to remember with gratitude. Sir John Shea would appear to be the natural successor to Sir George Barrow. I believe I am right in saying that for the whole of their military career they worked in the closest friendship. Sir George Barrow's service in India amounted to 43 years and Sir John Shea tells me that his already amounts to 39. These two great soldiers were in the same regiment, they went to the great War together, served in France and Palestine together, and each was responsible for most important commands.

After the War, Sir George Barrow became Adjutant-General and on vacating the position for Eastern Command he was followed by Sir John Shea. Sir John's record as a soldier commands everyone's admiration. His qualities of judgment and courage, both physical and moral, are well-known and inspire confidence and respect in all who serve under him. And above all, his cheery and sympathetic naturalness endears him to all who meet him and his priceless gift of humour makes them long to meet him again.

I am sure I express your unanimous desire when I offer to Sir John our most sincere good wishes for a happy and successful command.

I give the toast of His Majesty's Forces whose well-being and glory I ask you to rise and honour and couple it with the name of Sir John Shea.

His Excellency's Speech at the Japanese Coronation Dinner on 14th November 1928.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to acknowledge with gratitude, Sir, the kindly and felicitous terms in which you have proposed the health of His Majesty the King-Emperor. I thank you also for your expressions of good-will towards the people of the British Empire.

Gentlemen, it is our unique privilege to assemble here to-night to celebrate the accession, to the most ancient Throne in the world, of His Imperial Majesty Emperor Hirohito, the 124th Emperor of Japan.

The cordial relations which exist between the British and Japanese Governments are of long standing and, I feel, are firmly established. In a speech delivered at the opening of the British Parliament, His Majesty the King-Emperor referred to the historic Anglo-Japanese friendship as a potent factor for the maintenance of peace in the Far East.

The British people recall with the liveliest gratification the historic visit of His Imperial Majesty, as Crown Prince, to the British Isles, where he evinced the greatest interest in our ancient and traditional Institutions and at the same time visited many of our more important industrial centres.

They have been further honoured by the visit of another member of the Royal House of Japan, in the person of His Imperial Highness, Prince Chichibo, who was lately in England completing his studies as a member of one of our great Universities. During his stay there his charming and virile personality and ready participation in our traditional sports, gained for him an exceptional popularity with all classes. We have listened with great interest your excellent address which you have just delivered in which you traced the various changes that have taken place in Japan during recent years.

The rapid advance of the Japanese people from age-old conditions, in which they cultivated a remarkable art, notably literature, and an exceedingly picturesque life, into the full current of progress as it is understood in the West, has commanded the admiration of the world. As a Naval and Military Power, Japan holds a proud position amongst the Nations of the world. With equal significance she occupies a prominent place amongst the great industrial nations.

You have shown how modern Western culture can be assimilated without destroying the beauty of a life which stretches far back through the centuries, and without detracting from the natural and attractive simplicity of the people. It would be difficult to find in the history of the world a greater example of patriotic endeavour, or one which more eminently raised a nation among its neighbours to that respect which is based upon achievements. Japan has special reason to be proud of the admiration and esteem she justly earned by

her capacity to face uncomplainingly the great disasters wrought by nature and to build a still higher civilization upon the ashes of the past, solely by the genius and indomitable perseverance of her own people.

His Imperial Majesty ascends the Throne rich in experience, and acquainted with the various interests of his subjects. His earnest solicitude for the welfare and general activities of the people has secured their confidence and affection, and they see in him a prospective Ruler of wide ideals and liberal views.

The name "Showa" which has been given to His Imperial Majesty's reign, connotes co-operation between the Ruler and subjects and also, in its wider sense, with foreign nations.

In proposing the health of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Japan, I ask you, gentlemen, to join me in respectfully wishing His Imperial Majesty a long, happy, peaceful and glorious reign.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses
presented at Mymensingh on 28th
November 1928.***

GENTLEMEN,

I must first thank you for the cordial welcome you have so kindly accorded to Lady Jackson and myself on our first visit to the headquarters of this district and for the addresses you have presented to me. It has long been my desire to visit Mymensingh. It is the largest and the most populous district in Bengal and may be regarded as one of the most important in the Presidency. I am afraid my visit on this occasion must be curtailed, but I intend to tour more extensively through this portion of the Presidency in the near future.

GENTLEMEN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD,

The first subject mentioned in your address refers to the health of the people which must always be a matter of special concern to any one occupying my position, as I am well aware that happiness and contentment cannot prevail where sickness exists. Whilst you are right to take a serious view of the position in Mymensingh, I feel that you have been somewhat unduly pessimistic in presenting the picture of the present state of public health. An index of the health of an area, which is generally regarded as reliable, is the growth or decline of the population, and I find that, since the beginning of the nineteenth century, the number of inhabitants in this district has increased, gradually but constantly, by nearly three millions. The scourges of

Cholera and **Small-pox**, unfortunately, occur all over Bengal in the usual cycle of epidemics, and it is not possible to assign any cause of a purely local nature. **Malaria** and **Kala-Azar** are diseases which are by no means peculiar to Mymensingh, but I am pleased to know that in spite of the difficulties you experience in meeting your commitments, your achievements, in connection with this particular department of administration, constitute a record of which you may well be proud. It is, however, well to remember that the establishment of new institutions is a greater drain upon resources than the improvement of those already in existence, and experience has proved that the best results are obtained from studying quality rather than quantity.

I am glad to see that you are supporting a large number of Allopathic institutions which are in charge of qualified medical officers. The more ancient and traditional systems of medicines have their virtues and should not be ignored, but methods, which are the results of modern research and which have proved to be successful in treating common diseases, should obviously be brought within the reach of everyone.

I observe a reference to the withdrawal of grants made by Government to thana and village dispensaries. You appear to be under some misapprehension as regards this. These grants have not been withdrawn, but will be continued for three years subject to satisfactory reports of efficient management.

I was glad to see your expression of appreciation of the prompt and efficient service rendered by the Department of Public Health last year in supplying

vaccine and assisting you in *Kala-Azar* operations and in connection with Rural Public Health Organization schemes. The advice and help of this department are always at your disposal, and I trust that you will make full use of them.

Closely allied to question of health is the all important question of an adequate supply of pure drinking water, in connection with which, I note, you have an annual expenditure of Rs. 90,000. With the increase in the number of Union Boards, I hope there will be a wider awakening of public spirit. Perhaps I might be allowed to suggest that those who are animated by a spirit of civic duty, and there are many who are in a position to help in this direction, might find in the assurance of a good supply of this necessity of life, a much appreciated and valuable field for their generosity. I hope too that the District Board will take every advantage of the Local Self-Government Department's loan policy in connection with water-supply.

- There is no part of your address that I have read with more interest than that which refers to education throughout this large district. You take a serious view of the backwardness of the people and its consequent strangling results upon progress in sanitation and economic development. I find that at the last census, 14·12 per cent. of the male population were returned as 'literate, while 30 per cent. of the male population of school-going age attended the Board's schools. Government grants under the head of education to your district amounted to over one lakh and seventy thousand rupees. No doubt there is room for much improvement, but no reason, I think, for excessive pessimism in this

respect. I suggest that you should formulate schemes of the Biss type, towards the fulfilment of which I feel sure my Government will give you every assistance.

I congratulate you upon the progress you have made in connection with vocational training and upon the success of the Kashi Kishore Technical School and the Tangail District Weaving School. I attach particular importance to any form of technical education throughout the rural areas in this Presidency, and you may depend upon my interest and support.

As you are no doubt aware, Government introduced a Bill for Primary Education in rural areas which is now before a Select Committee. Government will make every effort to give statutory effect to this measure which should supply the frame-work upon which an efficient system of universal primary education in rural areas can be built.

The problem of the construction and maintenance of roads is no doubt a matter of some anxiety to your Board. I hope that legislation will be passed without delay by the Government of India which will enable the Local Government to find some funds to help you in this direction. At present you might consider the advisability of protecting your roads from undue wear and tear by motor traffic, by adopting the model bye-laws framed by Government.

It is extremely gratifying to know of the increase in the number of Union Boards in your district. Your satisfaction in their working is most welcome. The Union Board is the ideal unit of rural administration and, if well conducted, should add greatly to the happiness and prosperity of the people.

I congratulate you upon your efforts and on the earnest and conscientious manner in which you are evidently applying yourselves to the discharge of your responsibilities. I fully appreciate that your difficulties of administration are greatly enhanced by the lack of adequate funds and no one is more conscious of the damping result of such a deficiency, as the Provincial Government, but I think we are justified in the hope that as a result of the enquiries of the Royal Commission our present inequitable financial conditions may be remedied.

Gentlemen, I wish you every success and trust that you will continue your present unselfish public work in connection with the District Board—a service which, I feel sure, you will never have any reason to regret.

GENTLEMEN OF THE ANJUMAN-I-ISLAMIA,

It is a source of much gratification to receive an address from such a representative body of Mussalmans in this large district.

I welcome the assurance in your address that you are prepared to lend your co-operation to Sir John Simon and his colleagues, when the Commission begins its deliberations in Calcutta. The problem of communal representation will be considered during the sitting of the Commission in Calcutta, when every facility will be afforded to all communities to present their case.

I have noted with some anxiety your remarks on the Bengal Tenancy Amendment Act passed by the Bengal Legislative Council, in which you express the fear that the Act will reduce the raiyats to the

position of landless serfs. As this is an important matter, and it would appear that, as regards some aspects of the Act, you are labouring under some misapprehension, it may be advisable for me to explain what the results of this Act are expected to be as far as the various land interests are concerned.

Mr. Sachse, who spent many years in this district, in his Settlement Report of Mymensingh, gives a detailed account of agrarian conditions with special reference to the needs of the raiyats. He refers to the question of a raiyat being permitted to cut down trees without reference to the landlord, a matter which has long been a source of contention. Under the Act the raiyat has been given full proprietary rights in all trees on his homestead. He can further erect a pucca house or dig a tank or a well at his pleasure, and it is definitely made illegal for the landlord to demand any *nazar* or premium for the grant of permission to make such improvements.

Another difficulty which raiyats experience in some parts of Mymensingh is that caused by having numerous co-sharer landlords. To meet this difficulty provision has been made whereby a majority of raiyats in any estate can compel co-sharer landlords to appoint a common manager.

A procedure has been provided in the Act by which a co-sharer raiyat may obtain division of his tenancy and rent, and greater facilities have been given to raiyats for payment of rent by money-order.

There can be no doubt that these provisions in the Act confer considerable benefits on the raiyats of Bengal in general and of Mymensingh in particular. There are also provisions of the very

first importance which confer the benefits of fixity of tenure and fair rent on the under-*raiyat*. All these are reforms of substantial and far-reaching importance.

To properly appreciate this Act it must be regarded as a whole. You will agree it is not fair to select provisions which seem to bear harshly on the *raiyat* and neglect the many provisions referred to above which confer definite benefits. An Act which deals with general agrarian legislation must be so framed as to be equitable to all interests concerned, or it will fail in its object.

You view with special alarm those clauses which deal with pre-emption and *salami*. In Mymensingh however the *raiyat* had no right of transfer, and while holdings were freely transferred, the landlord had to be satisfied before he need recognize the new tenant.

Mr. Sachse in his report mentions instances where the demand of *salami* was 25 per cent. of the sale price and 15 to 30 times the rent. He also mentions cases where the landlord insisted on an increased rent from the new tenants, so that after four transfers the rent is doubled. Under the provisions of the Act the *raiyat* who purchases a holding knows exactly where he stands. He is entitled to recognition when he makes a single definite payment of twenty per cent. of the price. The provision confers on the purchaser a security he did not before possess and removes an unending source of friction between him and the landlord.

Government realized that the rule about pre-emption might be viewed with some apprehension.

It is admitted that some provision was necessary to prevent the landlord being defrauded of his customary fee by understatement of the price. Pre-emption is intended to act as an automatic check on undervaluation, which will not come into operation at all so long as the price is fairly stated in the sale-deed. Without such a provision it would have been necessary to allow the landlord to appeal to the Courts, if he thought a holding was undervalued in the sale-deed. This would have been worse for the raiyat than pre-emption. It is hoped that pre-emption will remain simply as a penalty in the back-ground and will be rarely used, and I assure you that Government will watch its use very carefully.

I would appeal to all of you not hastily to condemn this measure, but to give it a fair chance and to see how it works. Government have some confidence that in practice you will find that the Act will prove of general benefit.

It is gratifying to hear that you welcome the introduction into the Council, of the Bengal Primary Education Bill, 1928. There is, in my opinion, no subject of more importance to the general progress of Bengal than a sound and efficient system of Primary Education. It is the greatest need of the province irrespective of class, creed and race. To you, Muhammadans in particular, I believe, it is of special interest and significance and you have been persistent in your demand for opportunity for your community to start upon the path of advancement which will enable you to share equally with other communities many privileges and advantages which result from suitable education.

I agree with you that the subject of Muhammadan female education is one which calls for careful attention. Any reasonable proposals to increase the facilities in this direction shall be most carefully considered.

As regards the Ananda Mohan College, I find this is liberally endowed and in addition receives a maintenance grant from Government. An application for expansion may, however, be made to the Director of Public Instruction, who, I feel sure, will consider it with care and sympathy.

I have made careful enquiries as regards the employment of Muhammadans in Government offices and it appears that your statement is hardly justified. The Commissioner of the Dacca Division has most carefully and consistently adhered to, and enforced, the provisions of the Government Orders governing recruitment of 33 per cent. I find that as a result of his attention and that of the District Officers, the percentage of Muhammadan officers is actually above the minimum prescribed.

I make but passing reference to the introduction into this province of the Mussalman Wakf Act of 1923. The provisions of this Act are already operative. I wish your association every success in its undertakings and trust that its activities may expand and prosper.

His Excellency's Speech at the St. Andrew's Day Dinner on 30th November 1928.

GENTLEMEN,

I am grateful for the privilege accorded to me this evening of responding to the toast "Your Guests" so happily and generously proposed by Mr. Abbott.

I feel some responsibility in endeavouring adequately to voice the feelings of so many of your guests, but I am no doubt safe in assuring you of their unstinted gratitude for the generous hospitality you have extended to them, and further I am sure they would wish me to express their appreciation of the excellent speeches they have heard, so far.

This annual gathering on St. Andrew's Day in Calcutta has attained a world-wide reputation, and the reflections of the speakers, delivered in this exhilarating atmosphere, charged with the native spirit of incomparable Scotland are eagerly awaited and scanned with special interest.

I should like to thank Mr. Abbott for his kindly references to myself. I am encouraged by the assurance that he feels able to give, that I may expect to continue my innings in Bengal on a fairly good wicket.

I hope he is right, though I am personally inclined to think that we may expect some showers and perhaps a thunderstorm or two.

However that may be, I feel I can depend upon that loyal support of my team, whatever the wicket may be, in the future, that I have always received in the past.

I am certainly encouraged by the knowledge that there has been no forced change in the Ministry during the last twelve months, though I fear they have at times found the bowling awkward and the wicket bumpy.

I must also offer my sincere congratulations to the Chairman on the excellent speech in which he proposed—"The Viceroy and the Land we live in." He modestly disclaimed being a politician and reminded us that he spoke solely as a business man.

I noticed, however, in the latter part of his speech that he fell constrained to say, and I think quite rightly, that politics and business to-day are inextricably mixed. I seem to have met some business men, who consider that when politicians attempt to deal with business, and business men attempt to deal with politics, they invariably get "inextricably mixed."

We were, I know, all impressed by the fair, moderate and clear manner in which Mr. Banks dealt with subjects which must be of special interest to all assembled here to-night. His views on political problems lost none of their value and force, through being obviously influenced by the priceless gift of common sense, with which Mr. Banks is so abundantly possessed.

He told us that a friend had assured him that making a speech on this occasion gave one a glorious opportunity of making an ass of oneself. He, at any rate, has completely failed to live up to his friend's forebodings.

I am reminded of a remark, and a retort, that I once heard when an English M. P. speaking

of a Scottish M. P., who had the reputation of living up to his national motto—"Nemo' me impune lacescit," referred to him as "an old Scotch' thistle," to which the reply came—"Ah! would'n't you like to eat me."

Mr. Banks indicated in his speech that the business community has experienced some anxiety during the last twelve months, and he reminded us that throughout the important industrial areas in India there have been a series of unfortunate labour disputes of a serious and protracted nature.

In the cotton mills, iron works, railways, jute mills, and amongst municipal employees, there have been strikes with the usual unsatisfactory results to all concerned.

We, in Calcutta, were seriously disturbed by a strike in the East Indian Railway at Lillooah, accompanied by sympathetic strikes in important engineering works. As might have been expected the result was that the men unconditionally returned to work after much privation, disappointed and, I believe, disillusioned, and with a justifiable grievance against those who promised so much and produced so little.

A disturbing feature of these strikes in our midst was that they started before any definite or ostensible grievance had been put forward or any serious effort made to find a solution by negotiations.

Strikes in this country are, I fear, at present too easily created and too readily resorted to, and when started, the weapon of intimidation is much too powerful. Until those directly interested.—

employers and employed, are fully acquainted with the causes of the dispute and until every effort has been made by negotiations to arrive at some agreement, a strike should not be possible.

In England Trade Union Legislation, provided for the purpose of control and regulation, followed Trade Union Organization, whereas in India, Trade Union Legislation has been passed before Trade Union Organization has been even partially developed, and those who lead strikes, or profess to lead, with few exceptions do not appear fully to appreciate the responsibility which should attach to anyone taking upon himself the task of organizing and leading a strike.

In some cases the assistance of men known to be ill-disposed towards peace and order and with no connection with the industry concerned, is imported. Some power should be available to deal swiftly and effectively with any whose proved purpose under such conditions is solely to foment trouble.

I can conceive cases of legitimate grievances which may exist and which, after being properly presented and considered, if not remedied, might justify the withholding of labour, but resort to a strike should not be taken until every effort has been made to find a solution by every other possible means.

* A great responsibility necessarily rests upon employers. I think it will be agreed that to the extent in which their sympathy and consideration for the welfare of those they employ are exercised, the chances of industrial trouble should be decreased.

The Lillooah strike was an extremely difficult one for the Government of Bengal as they were not directly an interested party, except from the point of view of preserving the peace, and I would like here to express the appreciation and approval of the Government for the way in which the Police did their duty under exceptionally difficult conditions during those six or seven months.

In a few weeks' time the Royal Commission will have begun their enquiry in Calcutta. Anyone studying the position in Bengal must, I think, be impressed by the exceptional difficulties which the Government of this Presidency have experienced in satisfactorily carrying on the administration under the Reformed Constitution. The main factors have been the determined and persistent obstruction from those who from the start decided not to accept the constitution as provided in the Reforms of 1919; and the difficulties were greatly increased by the hopelessly inadequate provision for this Presidency under the present financial settlement. The lack of an adequate system of primary education for Bengal does not mitigate the difficulties. I believe I am right in stating that 50 per cent. of the electorate is illiterate.

The strong communal feeling which affects and colours almost every social and political activity throughout the Presidency is a constant source of anxiety, and adds to the perplexities of Government. There can be no province in India which has more reason to look with anxious eyes for some assistance from the labours of the Commission.

Though the problem of finding a satisfactory solution for the future Government in India is

indeed a formidable one, we may have confidence in the ultimate result of their labours. It is regrettable that the co-operation of some of the most prominent of the leaders of political thought in India has not so far been forthcoming. I feel that nothing which has happened or may happen in connection with the visit of the Commission will divert them from the clear path of duty which lies before them, nor will it prejudice the goodwill and sympathy and honesty of purpose with which they started on their stupendous task.

I was struck by one sentence in Mr. Banks' speech which referred to the future in this country "being wrapped in fog and uncertainty." I was a little puzzled as to what had influenced him in taking this rather lugubrious outlook.

On thinking the matter over I came to the conclusion that Mr. Banks had been reading an account of the result of a meeting of the Working Committee of the All-India Congress which sat at New Delhi at the early part of this month.

He will have read the terms of the resolution which was proposed and passed, "declaring complete independence to be the goal of the Indian people, and expressing the opinion that "there can be no true freedom till the British connection is severed." It is possible that Mr. Banks saw for a moment the terms of that resolution carried into effect in this country, as we know it to-day, and India severed from the British Empire.

If this be the case, I can understand his reference to the future being wrapped in fog and uncertainty.

When I read the resolution I was particularly interested in those words "that there can be no true freedom till the British connection is severed." It is difficult fully to appreciate what "true freedom" really means. • Freedom purchased at the expense of security might prove of doubtful value.

Can anyone seriously suggest that the freedom, liberty, and, I would add another word, justice, which are enjoyed throughout India to-day as a result of British administration, would be greater if the British connection was severed and British administration ceased ?

Could anyone guarantee that under any other administration, including one completely Indian, the people of this country would ever know such freedom, such liberty, such justice, and such security as they are assured in this country to-day ?

It is difficult accurately to judge what is the position of those proposals which are known as the Nehru Report, which suggest a constitution on the lines of Dominion Status for India. Whatever our opinions may be as to the practicability of applying the proposals outlined in that Report to India to-day, we must admit that they were at any rate a product of statesmenlike effort, and as such, command respect; but the addition of the further resolution to which I have alluded completely vitiates these proposals, and certainly places the authors of the original Report in an unenviable position.

In these times we must avoid fogs. To my knowledge there is certainly no fog surrounding Sir John Simon and his colleagues. We must keep our vision clear to be able to see the realities and have courage to face them.

One outstanding reality which cannot be lost sight of is that the British Empire is made up of numerous component parts. It has been the policy of the British people through Parliament to assist the transfer to these component parts of the responsibility of looking after themselves in their own way, as soon as it is considered practicable and desirable in the interests of the people of those parts and of the Empire as a whole.

This policy has been adopted and pursued in complete confidence that all who are privileged to be partners of the British Empire will appreciate the advantages, and the bonds which bind them together will grow stronger and more trustworthy every day. It has always so happened in the past.

The policy of progressive realization of responsible Government in British India, as an integral part of the Empire, has been determined by Parliament. The application must be gradual. The pace of its adoption must depend upon that demonstration of goodwill and desire for that co-operation which is a necessary preliminary for that partnership which Dominion Status implies.

A matter of special interest to those present here to-night is that the European case will probably be taken by the Commission in Calcutta. I can imagine that their main concern may be that in any changes which may be made in the constitution of India, they should be assured of reasonable security in the transaction of their legitimate business or professions.

The development of industry and commerce and their prosperity have been possible only through

a sense of security and confidence, and they trust that nothing will be done to impair that security and shake that confidence.

I have taken advantage of a license generously accorded, I believe, to the Governor, to wander away from the toast. I must thank you for your indulgence, and, I trust I have not exceeded the limit granted under this license. My personal gratitude to Scotchmen in Calcutta is not confined to the generous hospitality I have so much enjoyed to-night. I am constantly asking for, and am always readily accorded, their help and advice.

The influence of Scotchmen is apparent in every branch of social, political, commercial or philanthropic activity in Calcutta. I appreciated the extent of your influence before I came out from a remark which was made to me by a Scotchman when I was discussing the disadvantage of not knowing the language of the country. His reply was "all you will require is a smattering of Bengalee and a fair knowledge of Scotch."

I am greatly encouraged to know that I can always rely upon your advice in difficulties, and your assistance when I am in a hole.

Gentlemen, on behalf of your guests, I beg to thank you most sincerely for your generous hospitality, and in return to wish you all, our hosts, every happiness and success.

***His Excellency's remarks in presenting
Kaisar-i-Hind Medals at the Garden
Party in Calcutta Government House on
4th December 1928.***

MRS. ADA LEE,

Your untiring and unselfish devotion to the cause of education in India for over 50 years has well-merited the award of the *Kaisar-i-Hind* Gold Medal, which I have great pleasure in presenting, and upon which I heartily congratulate you.

SISTER ELSIE HENRY,

Your devoted service to the Medical College Hospital and to its patients for over 15 years has earned for you the award of the *Kaisar-i-Hind* Silver Medal, upon which I heartily congratulate you.

His Excellency's addresses to the Recipients of Sanads and Badges at the Calcutta Durbar on 11th December 1928.

RAI BADRI DAS GOENKA BAHADUR, C.I.E.,

You have had a long and honourable association with the public life of the city of Calcutta. For several years you have been an elected member of the Bengal Legislative Council, and at the same time you have rendered most valuable service as a member of various public bodies, including the Calcutta Corporation and the Improvement Trust. The extensive public charities of the members of your family are well known. In the name of the King-Emperor of India and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the badge of the Order of the Indian Empire to which Most Eminent Order His Imperial Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint you to be a companion.

SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA MUHAMMAD YAHYA,

A member of the Bengal Educational Service of more than 18 years standing, you have shown considerable organizing ability and rendered valuable assistance in administering the Arabic Department of the Calcutta Madrasah. You are an acknowledged authority on the Hadis, and your commentary on the first volume of the canonical collection of traditions of Trimidhi is an achievement of great merit. You are greatly respected as one of the most eminent traditionists in India. The title

of Shams-ul-Ulama, which has been bestowed upon you, is a fitting recognition of a life devoted to scholarship and to the cause of education.

**MAHAMAHOPADHYAYA PANDIT RAM BRAHMA
BIDYARNAB TARKATIRTHA,**

You enjoy a wide reputation as a Sanskrit scholar of the old school and are much respected for your deep knowledge of Nyaya Philosophy and literature. As a scholar and teacher you are much esteemed and, in addition to your devotion to the teaching of Sanskrit, you have spent much time and labour to the exposition of the Puranas. The title of Mahamahopadhyaya, which has been conferred upon you, is a fitting recognition of a most useful life and work.

**MAHAMAHOPADHYAYA PANDIT SITI KANTHA
VACHASPATI,**

You are a member of one of the oldest and highly respected pandit families of Nabadwip, many of whom have been distinguished for their Sanskrit learning and are in possession of the traditional lore of the Nadia School of Smriti. You have ably maintained the traditions of your family, and are held in high esteem by your compeers as a Sanskrit scholar of eminent distinction in traditional learning. Your decisions in Hindu Law are accepted as authoritative in Bengal. As an author your works—“Sakti Satak” and “Alamkar Darpan” have received much appreciation. You have earned for yourself a position of peculiar respect in circles of Sanskrit learning and I highly congratulate you upon the distinction conferred.

MR. HERBERT CYRIL MARSHALL UPSHON, M.B.E.,

As Jailor of the Presidency Jail since 1920, you have rendered very loyal and faithful service. During the disturbed period of the Non-Co-operation Movement in 1921-22 when the jail was over-crowded, you carried out your responsible and difficult duties with exceptional success. In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand to you the badge of Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

MR. WILLIAM BAKER CAIRNS, M.B.E.,

Whilst serving in the Delhi Public Works Department you were in charge of the Stoneyard and Quarries in connection with the construction of the Central Buildings. You were responsible for the training of Indian labour in the best methods and the workmanship attained was of a very high standard. In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand to you the badge of Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI ABUL KHAIR KABIR-UD-DIN AHMAD,

You have completed 28 years of service out of which over 19 years have been passed in the Bengal Civil Service. You received the title of Khan Sahib in 1916 for your work in the Settlement Department. For the last eight years you have been employed in the Bengal Co-operative Department where you have rendered valuable service. Your continued distinguished service has fully warranted your advancement to the higher title of Khan Bahadur.

RAI MAHENDRA NATH GUPTA BAHADUR,

You were awarded the title of Rai Sahib in 1920 in recognition of your work as Personal Assistant to the Director of Land Records. Since then you have maintained your reputation as a valuable Revenue Officer having varied experience of Settlement and Land Acquisition work. You are regarded as an authority on "Utbandi" and had the unique distinction of being nominated as the expert Member of the Bengal Legislative Council when the "Utbandi" Bill was taken up in 1923. You enjoy the reputation of being a popular and efficient officer and thoroughly dependable, and the title of Rai Bahadur is a further mark of Government's appreciation of the valuable services rendered by you.

RAI HEM CHANDRA MITRA BAHADUR,

Beginning your career in the Bench Section, Appellate Side, High Court, by dint of merit you rose to the responsible post of Senior Bench Clerk and in course of time were promoted to the post of Private Secretary to the Hon'ble the Chief Justice. You discharged your duties with fidelity, tact and administrative ability, and in appreciation of the helpful services rendered to Sir Lancelot Sanderson and the Hon'ble Sir George Rankin, Government have been pleased to confer upon you the title of 'Rai Bahadur.'

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI FAZLUL QUADIR,

You have had more than 27 years service in the Registration Department. In 1921, you received the title of Khan Sahib and since then you have

done excellent work as Inspector of Registration Offices. Your long and meritorious service has entitled you to this further distinction upon which I congratulate you.

RAI FANINDRA NATH GUPTA BAHADUR,

You are one of the pioneers of industry in this Presidency and during the War you were called upon to manufacture various implements and materials required for war purposes. You are a large employer of labour and in your well-equipped factory you also train apprentices, and enable them to find useful vocations. In this way you are helping towards the improvement of the economic life of the province. You were awarded the title of Rai Sahib in 1920 and your enterprise and endeavours to promote the industrial welfare of the country warrant your advancement to the higher title.

RAI SURENDRA NATH GUHA BAHADUR,

As the Junior Government Pleader in the High Court, Calcutta, for a number of years you rendered valuable service to Government. Last year, you were appointed Senior Government Pleader and your consistently good work has earned for you the title of Rai Bahadur.

RAI NAGENDRA NATH MUKHARJI BAHADUR,

As a lawyer, you have been employed by Government in important cases and in this capacity you have rendered loyal and valuable services. In 1926, you became the Chairman of the Nadia District Board and under your charge this Body has become

efficient and established on a sound basis. You are also a nominated Commissioner of the Ranaghat Municipality in whose affairs you take a lively interest. In appreciation of your services the title of Rai Bahadur has been bestowed upon you.

RAI MATHRA DAS BAHADUR,

As a member of the Superior Railway Service you have always displayed great keenness in your work, and possess marked organizing ability and initiative. Your loyal and devoted service has earned for you the title of Rai Bahadur.

RAI APURBA KRISHNA MUKHARJI BAHADUR,

You entered the Postal Department more than 23 years ago and served Government with conspicuous ability in this Presidency as well as in the Province of Bihar and Orissa. In recognition of your long service which has been marked with zeal and devotion, Government have been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Bahadur.

RAO BAHADUR VELLORE GOBINDA RAJU MUDALIAR,

As a Bacteriologist of great distinction, you have done admirable work in organizing the Bengal Government Laboratory for the preparation of anti-Cholera vaccine. You were awarded the title of Rao Sahib in 1918 in recognition of exceptional services, and by your later achievements, especially in connection with the production of anti-Cholera vaccine, you have fully merited the higher distinction of Rao Bahadur.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI ABDUL MAJID.

You have rendered 33 years service under Government and are now one of the most senior officers of the Bengal Registration Department. You have done excellent work as a departmental District Registrar, and your long and meritorious service has fully deserved recognition.

RAI SAHIB JAMINI MOHAN GHOSH,

As a member of the Bengal Civil Service (Executive) to which you were promoted from the Bengal Junior Civil Service in 1921, you have an excellent record and have done consistently good work in the Revenue Department. Your report on the foreshore of the Hooghly on both the Calcutta and Howrah sides within the port, is a valuable document which will be of the greatest use not only to the Revenue Department, but from the point of view of historical interest. Your excellent service fully merited recognition.

RAI SAHIB JOGESH CHANDRA SEN GUPTA,

You entered the Railway Service in 1900 and have worked your way up to the present responsible position of Senior Clerk in the office of the District Loco. Superintendent, Saidpur. In addition to the great zeal and diligence with which you perform your duties, you have evinced a keen interest in the education of the children of the Indian Railway Staff and were largely instrumental in starting the new High English School at Saidpur. The distinction of Rai Sahib is well merited.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI SHAMS-UD-DIN AHMAD,

You have rendered meritorious service as Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector of over 21 years and you command the respect and confidence of all classes and communities. In the several subdivisions of which you held charge, you took a special interest in fostering Local-Self Government, Medical and Co-operative Institutions. Your work as Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division is worthy of special commendation. I congratulate you upon the title of Khan Sahib which has been bestowed upon you.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI SAIYID MOSHFIQU'S SALEHEEN,

You entered the service 30 years ago and have done exceptionally good work in the Registration Department and have effected considerable improvement in the Registration Office at Alipore and secured an increase of revenue to Government. I congratulate you upon the title of Khan Sahib which has been bestowed upon you.

RAI SAHIB NEPAL CHANDRA SEN,

Your work on special duty in the Political and Appointment Departments was exceptionally good. As an Assistant Settlement Officer, Nadia, from October 1919 to March 1922, you carried out your duties with success. You held charge of the Settlement for seven months in 1922 and you are now Personal Assistant to the Director of Land Records and Surveys. Your record of service has been most meritorious and you fully deserve the distinction now bestowed upon you.

RAI SAHIB NARAYAN CHANDRA CHATARJI,

You joined the Bengal Police as Sub-Inspector 31 years ago and after being transferred to the Calcutta Police you gradually rose to the rank of Assistant Commissioner. You have an untarnished record and a long series of meritorious rewards. You have always shown yourself a capable, energetic and efficient police officer.

RAI SAHIB SATYA RANJAN DAS GUPTA,

You are the most senior Sub-Registrar in the province and for 32 years you did excellent work in the Registration Department, especially as a Departmental Registrar. Your long and meritorious services have earned this award.

RAI SAHIB HAZARI LAL PRAMANIK,

Your public spirit and generosity have done much to meet the educational and medical needs of the people of your district where you have established a charitable dispensary and a High English School at a cost of Rs. 56,000. In recognition of your valuable public service, you have been awarded the title of Rai Sahib.

His Excellency's Speech at the Prize Distribution of the St. Xavier's College, Calcutta, on 14th December 1928.

MY LORD ARCHBISHOP, FATHER RECTOR AND GENTLEMEN,

It is a great pleasure to Lady Jackson and myself to have this opportunity of paying our first visit to the St. Xavier's College and we are very grateful to you, Father Rector, and to you, Gentlemen, for the cordial welcome you have given us.

I am acquainted with the history of the college, its origin and progress, and I have the greatest admiration for those who by their unselfish devotion have created and organized this institution. Your aim is, I understand, to form the character of its pupils, to inspire them with the love of religion and morality, to train them to acquire gentlemanly manners and methodical habits of work, and to fit them for their various duties in life. This college is the result of the efforts of Missionary Educationists, which are acknowledged by all to have been of inestimable benefit in Bengal.

I have listened to the annual report which has just been submitted by Father Rector with much interest. It is in itself a proof of efficient management. On the academic side, the college holds a position equal to the best educational establishments in Bengal, if not in India. The number of students on the roll this year shows an increase over that of, 1927. The record of success in all examinations appears to me to be very satisfactory.

On the other side of college life, in my judgment not the least important, your activities and success in sports and games are proverbial in Bengal. The record of this college for discipline and order and due respect for authority is a matter of which you can be especially proud, and an example which I wish were more closely followed in other directions. This combination of academic distinction and success on the sports grounds, together with your loyalty and respect for authority, has enabled this college to live up to its ideals and to build up a tradition which has earned the esteem and confidence of all interested in sound and well-balanced education. The future for students brought up under such conditions should be bright and hopeful. The number of those attending the college is large, and there appears to be a demand for admission which cannot be granted for lack of room. I have heard of your desire to extend your capacity and I wish your efforts in this direction success. In view of your record I feel that money could not be devoted with better effect to the interests of education in this Province. But numbers are not everything. The main consideration is the extent to which the benefits derived here can be made use of in after-life. As far as I can judge, the opportunities offered to the students in this college, when properly taken advantage of, have proved to be of benefit and assistance in life's struggle.

There were two subjects in the Father Rector's report with which I was particularly struck. He referred to the Students' Association, known as the "Sift" and their efforts in connection with the Balurghat famine, when they raised a considerable

sum of money and personally distributed it amongst the distressed people in that subdivision. This certainly shows a conception of public spirit which is most commendable and I am glad to see it catching hold so early. He also referred to the conduct of the boys having been generally good, though there was a passing reference to a certain lack of diligence. I am afraid this is not an uncommon failing in boys at school, nor an uncommon complaint of keen head-masters. I note the Rector felt justified in laying some blame in this respect upon the parents. Parents in India have exceptional affection for their children and take considerable interest in their progress whilst at college. It would be well if parents of students would impress upon them that they are not bestowing a favour upon their teachers by attending this college, but that they should appreciate the gift of knowledge which is so readily offered to them and take it with gratitude. I am old enough to be able to give you the advice—to bear in mind the Rector's words: "take your studies seriously," and I would add "play your games strenuously, but cleanly and for your side." I remember the time when I was asked to work harder and thought my masters unreasonable creatures, but looking back, I am inclined to think the lack of reasonableness was not all on the side of masters.

I believe that success such as you are enjoying, can only be attained, when there is a feeling of sympathy between the teacher and the student. This sympathy can only exist when the student feels that the teacher is there to help him, and provided it is not killed by outside influence with ulterior motives. If this sympathy exists, respect comes

naturally and discipline follows respect. I think this sympathy has been further engendered by the ready appreciation of the human side of the boy and the encouragement so readily afforded for him to keep his body fit by healthy and friendly competitions in sports and games.

Each individual connected with the college—whether of the staff or the students—carries an individual responsibility: the success of this college depends upon how each and all discharge their respective responsibilities.

I offer to you, Father Rector, my congratulations on the past record, and my best wishes for continued prosperity of this college.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Mining
and Geological Institute Dinner on 18th
January 1929.***

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

I must first thank you for so kindly giving me this opportunity of attending your annual dinner and I am most grateful to you, Sir, for your kind remarks and to you, Gentlemen, for your generous welcome.

At the end of your speech you reminded us of the importance of this great city of Calcutta which contains nearly half the industrial establishments in the country, and through whose port nearly half the trade of India passes. You might also have mentioned in this connection that as a result of these activities, something like 45 per cent. of the total revenue of the Central Government comes through Bengal and at the same time she finds herself with scarcely enough money to be able to run her own administration ! However, we are pinning our hope upon the Commission, one member of which is present to-night, who, I feel sure, will appreciate the necessity for some readjustment in the present Financial Settlement.

You refer in your speech to my coming from Yorkshire, which you so admirably describe as the largest and most famous county in England, and you expressed the view that I could not, therefore, be unacquainted with mining and industrial questions. Having spent the greater part of my life in the West Riding of Yorkshire, about 20 years

of which, with slight interludes for cricket, I was associated with business, you are right in presuming that I have had some experience of industrial life. But I can claim other experiences which in a gathering such as this may, perhaps, help to a mutual sympathy between us. For some years I was a Director of a Colliery Company, when I had the opportunity of following the successful sinking of what was then the deepest pit in the United Kingdom—from the cutting of the first sod to the striking of the Barnsley seam, and the lay out of the pit bottom for the working of the coal.

I mention these matters in the belief that, as you have generously acknowledged the sympathy and assistance you have received from the Government in the past, you may feel that the presence in Bengal of a Governor with some practical experience of your work and difficulties is not likely to tend to any reduction in that sympathy in the future.

I cannot claim, I regret to say, much acquaintance with Geology or Geologists, though ever since I got over the belief, born of ignorance, that Geologists were solely interested in fossils, I have been able to appreciate the important and, indeed, essential part they play in the development of the resources of the earth for the benefit of mankind. My eyes were opened to the value of the Geologists by an incident which happened during the sitting of the Royal Commission on Coal Resources in the United Kingdom in 1900, which sat for five years, and of which my father was the Chairman. During their investigations of the coal in Yorkshire a line had been drawn down the centre of the County, showing the boundary beyond which it was considered coal

could not be economically worked. A certain Professor of Geology at the Yorkshire College, now Leeds University, approached my father and asked to be allowed to give evidence as regards the coal resources of Yorkshire. He was allowed to do so. He immediately expressed the view that the boundary which the Commission had approved was wrong. The result of his evidence was that the Commission altered their views and the line was extended at least 20 miles to the east. In the course of a few years the sinking of pits was started in what is known as the Doncaster area, which has proved to be one of the best and most profitable coal areas in England. There is no doubt that this intervention of Professor Kendall drew the attention of colliery companies to the possibilities of this large area and led to its early development, from which millions of tons of the best coal have been produced and in which many thousands of people have found employment. I do not know how he arrived at his conclusions which convinced the Commission, but he must have made a very good guess.

As you said, Sir, the satisfactory development of a country must be dependent to a large extent upon the proper utilization of its mineral resources, and this applies most directly to India. During the last 30 or 40 years the increase in the production and utilization of minerals in India has been extraordinary, as demonstrated by the figures which you, Sir, have given this evening. There seems to be no question that high grade ores exist to an almost unlimited extent, but I have heard, on the other hand, that the supply of suitable coal is by no means unlimited. Ores without coking coal for smelting

would be a tantalising and deplorable condition of affairs. It seems, therefore, desirable that Geologists should give special attention to investigation as regards coal supply, and, if necessary, give timely warning of the necessity for careful dealing with the available coal supplies.

The Geological Survey of India may be regarded as one of the most important departments of Government. Their assistance is required in nearly every direction of development. Other than in connection with mineral deposits, their experience and advice are called for in connection with water-supply, oil, dams and reservoirs, road metals and even earthquakes, though I don't think that even they have the specific to prevent them. The work of Geologists and Mining Engineers must necessarily be closely related. Geologists can place materials, Engineers must produce them.

Anyone coming here in my position must feel impelled by a desire to assist in any way possible the development of this Province in the general interests of the people whose welfare is his particular charge. It must be the duty of Government to encourage those upon whose experience and initiative depends the production of plans and schemes for development.

I suppose a problem with which you are continuously confronted in the mining industry in India is labour. The natural trend of the people is towards agricultural pursuits, work in the sun light in their own way and in their own time. The skilled labour required in such industries as mining must be created. I understand that the Governments of Bengal and Bihar and Orissa endeavour to do this

in accordance with the instructions of the Mining Education Advisory Board. Their efforts have been supported in the past by various mining associations, though I believe in one instance owing, I presume, to bad times this support has been withdrawn. I hope that it will be restored. In view of the obvious advantages to the industry of having labour with the requisite capacity to carry on the hazardous and difficult technique of coal mining, we ought to be able to depend upon the Mining Association to continue to support the efforts of the Government. The efficiency of the subordinates underground is as important as the efficiency of the management above.

I am very glad to see in our midst to-night Colonel Lane-Fox who for several years and during, perhaps, the most difficult period ever experienced in England in connection with the coal trade, carried on, with exceptional courage and ability, the post of Minister of Mines. He will agree, I feel sure, that a great change has come over the coal industry throughout the world during these last few years. At any rate there is a very great depression in England and I believe also in India at this moment. It is difficult accurately to forecast what the future of the coal industry may be, but I am personally convinced that it is always bound to be an extremely valuable commercial commodity.

There are many who believe that salvation in the industry lies in the successful solution of low carbonisation which Scientists all over the world are hard at work upon. When coal will no longer be transported in bulk, but be converted at the pit mouth or possibly the pit bottom, the valuable

properties which now go up the chimney or are cast on the ash heap will be preserved and utilized. However, the good work of the Geologists and Mining Engineers must still go on and their assistance will be wanted more than ever in India as elsewhere. It has been a great pleasure to dine with the members of your Institute and I wish you all every success and prosperity in the future.

His Excellency's Speech at the Prize distribution of the All-India Thirty-mile Swimming Competition on 25th January 1929.

GENTLEMEN,

I am very pleased to have this opportunity of coming here this evening and making the acquaintance of the Aheeritola Sporting Club and I must thank you for your cordial welcome. Your name indicates that you are interested in, and encourage, all kinds of sports. There are no occasions which I personally welcome more than those which give me an opportunity of meeting young Indians interested in sport and I have been greatly impressed, since I have been in Bengal, by the obvious mutual sympathy which is created, through sport, among all classes of the people. I feel that the encouragement of sport is an important part of my duty as Governor of this Presidency. It is upon the field of sport that we can always meet in complete harmony.

This evening we meet for the purpose of congratulating the winner of one of the greatest sporting events of the year in Bengal. To swim 30 miles under any conditions is an exhibition of extraordinary stamina, but to do it in the time of 5 hours and 55 minutes is, to one who has never swam more than about 100 yards, phenomenal. I understand that out of 18 competitors in the race, five completed the full course.

In England, at the Public Schools and Universities, those who indulge in river sports are known

as "Wet Bobs" and those who indulge in field sports are known as "Dry Bobs." I am afraid I was not very much good as a "Wet Bob," though at my school so much importance was attached to swimming that every boy had to pass a test which should at any rate enable him, when he got into difficulties, to save his own life and possibly assist others.

Swimming competitions at Harrow-Ducker were of an exceptionally high standard. I have taken part in most kinds of sports of one kind or another, though I am afraid I have never excelled in the water. There is no question that swimming is an excellent exercise and at the same time a very valuable and almost necessary acquirement.

You in Bengal excel at this sport, and judging from my experience in Eastern Bengal during the rains, every man, woman and child must be experts. I understand that this 30-mile swim is open to the whole of India, and I should be pleased to see more competitors from other provinces taking part and giving additional interest to the rest.

I commend the Club upon the way it is conducted and upon its organization of this excellent kind of sport. I congratulate most heartily the winner upon his success and the competitors upon their individual efforts.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the Bengal Flying Club at Dum-Dum on
2nd February 1929.***

GENTLEMEN,

I much appreciate the privilege accorded to my wife and myself of being here to-day and taking part in these proceedings. I look upon this occasion as one of special interest and importance. In these days no great city can afford to be without facilities for the practice of aviation.

By starting this Club to-day, the membership of which is open to all communities, you inaugurate civil aviation in Bengal and bring yourselves into line in this respect with other Provinces. The object of the Club is to promote and foster aviation and by so doing you are really rendering a public service.

I can well remember the early days when attempts were made to fly, and I shall never forget the thrill I experienced when during the first aeroplane race round England I saw for the first time an aeroplane flying over a valley towards Harrogate in Yorkshire.

To-day in most countries in the world the aeroplane is a common sight and journeys are made with regularity for long distances with, as some think, less risk than in a train or a motor-car. We now know that a weekly service will run from London to Karachi, occupying about seven days—52 hours flying.

In view of the progress recorded during these last few years in aviation, one can reasonably

anticipate that possibly within the next few years we shall see these grounds buzzing with activity and we may be called upon to provide a suitable harbour for sea-planes on the river. It is only right that your enterprise should receive the support and encouragement of Government, and I am pleased to know that the Government of India have been able to assist you by placing these grounds at your disposal as well as a grant and two moth aeroplanes.

The use of the air as a means of communication by wireless and as a road for transport, which has developed with such rapidity, is sure to upset many calculations and makes us wonder what is still in store for us. It is obvious that we cannot stand still and merely look on. We must keep abreast of the times and develop an appreciation of the possibilities of air transport, if we are to hold our own in the competition throughout the world. The possibilities of aviation in India with its vast distances must be very great, and opportunity must be afforded to Indians to learn to use the air.

I feel justified in anticipating that within a short time aviation in Bengal will be a popular sport, as it will also prove to be of great commercial and public utility.

I must express our thanks to those who are responsible for the organization and enthusiasm which has produced this Club, and our gratitude to the supporters of this project. Sir Rajendra Nath Mookerjee is always sure to be prominent in any undertaking of this kind.

I wish the Bengal Flying Club every prosperity and success.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Asiatic Society on 4th February 1929.

Gentlemen,

I must first thank you for inviting me to preside over this gathering this evening. It was a source of much regret to me that I was unable to attend your meeting last year, owing to my being called to Delhi by His Excellency the Viceroy. I am, however, more fortunate this year, and it gives me much pleasure to have this opportunity of making personal acquaintance of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, rightly regarded as one of the foremost scientific institutions in India.

It is not my intention, and you will not expect me, to inflict upon you anything in the shape of a disquisition on those subjects of which my audience are masters. I should soon find myself out of my depth.

I have listened with much interest to the address which has just been delivered by the President, in which he has given an admirable historical survey of the Society's activities, which enables me to appreciate its importance and value. This history of your Society depicts the ramifications of its relations with eminent scholars and scientists of the learned societies of all nations of the world, and also records the activities of your members in every branch of intellectual endeavour.

It is a relief to leave behind for a few moments the mundane problems which daily confront one in my position and to feel myself in the elevating atmosphere which pervades this gathering. An

object of your Society must be to encourage those who, acquiring exceptional knowledge by research, give their conclusions for the general benefit of mankind, and make them the common property of our teachers, who in their turn pass it on in simple phrase to students. It is desirable that your audience should be enlarged and this can come only through education. As you watch the progress of the world, you must be encouraged to work the harder and to think deeper in the hope of being able to assist by your vision and knowledge, and to guide and direct by instructive criticism or reasoned warning.

Judging by the names of your associates, your Society has obviously an attraction for those directly interested in educational effort, and it would not, perhaps, be unreasonable to believe that your support will be readily forthcoming for any practical effort to place our great educational establishments in Bengal upon a plane equal to that of any similar institutions in the world.

We meet under happy conditions as regards your Society. Your President is one whose research work, especially in connection with the scourge of *Kala-Azar*, has secured for him a prominent position amongst the medical profession. The results of his work have done much to alleviate the suffering caused by this distressing disease. Your membership has reached its highest level this year, and amongst the new members there are many names of men of high attainments.

A society of this character must be kept within limits, in view of your determination to include within your membership only those whose record of intellectual attainment makes them eligible. But

its popularity is expressed by its number, this year the total being over 600. Throughout the year your activities have been well maintained and much valuable work has been performed. You record several successful general lectures and numerous papers on Philology, Biology and Anthropology. In all no less than 44 new papers were recorded. The issues in the *Bibliothica Indica* have aggregated over 2,100 printed papers. In every branch of its work the Society receives appeals for scientific and literary information, and for direction in scholarship and general oriental study. By its correspondence the Society's store of knowledge can effectually be made available to students and scholars outside, and I can appreciate the wish which has been expressed that the Society should have the staff large enough to cope with its voluminous correspondence.

Your financial condition appears to be fairly satisfactory. Though the salaries of the office staff which is a recurring expenditure, must depend upon some substantial increase in the reserve fund, I note with pleasure donations to the permanent library endowment fund by Mrs. Brahmachari, Mr. W. K. Dodds, Sir David Ezra and Mr. Gour Charan Law.

There can be no more worthy object for the support of those who look forward to that synthesis of Western and Eastern thought to which your Society so splendidly contributes, than a bequest for its work. Such support is needed for increasing the means of spreading your knowledge, conserving your library treasures, and consolidating your permanent staff. In wishing the Society every prosperity, I commend its work to the consideration of the generously-minded public.

His Excellency's Speech at the Calcutta Club Dinner on 4th February 1929.

GENTLEMEN,

I much appreciate the compliment you have extended to me in giving me this opportunity of dining with my fellow-members of this Club. I wish I had the chance of making more frequent visits here, but must plead, only too truly, that I have not had the time.

I am very grateful to the Chairman for his kind remarks. He and I have known one another for a number of years and often played Cricket together. We were at the same school, and though I had left before he arrived on the scene, as it happens in England—tradition assures that all Harrovians stick together in after-life. He is now an eminent Judge in our High Court where, as far as I can make out, there is plenty of work to be done and always lots more to follow on. There is, I know, a wide admiration for the way in which our High Court carries out its great responsibilities.

He expressed the view that it was a good thing that Governors who were sent out to this country from England should have had experience of men and affairs. This attribute, if one is fortunate enough to possess it, is undoubtedly a great advantage, though one finds that one's judgment has to be carefully considered when one finds oneself in different conditions. I can well believe that a knowledge of men and affairs is of no small advantage to a Judge.

It is an excellent rule that politics on these occasions should be avoided. However, I thoroughly appreciate your understanding that speeches are not reported. You are not debarred, I imagine, from occasionally discussing political questions over your coffee, and I have no doubt that some of you occasionally produce a specific for the solution of most of the problems in Bengal, if not in India. It is possible that some of you have passed on such a specific to those gentlemen who were lately in Calcutta anxiously looking for it. I have personally no specific remedy, though it appears to me that one of the joint essentials for the satisfactory settlement of difficult problems, is the desire and the will of all parties to find a solution, and when the facts of the situation are appreciated, to set about the task with some confidence in the mutual good faith of the respective parties, and their determination to approach the questions in a reasonable spirit.

One thing I have found of advantage since I came to Bengal—the province with the largest Industrial community—is my early experience of industrial life in England. Of the many anxieties which continue to beset a Governor of Bengal, none weighs heavier than that anything should happen to disturb the smooth and contented working of the industries upon which so many of the people of Bengal depend for a livelihood. There is nothing more calculated to upset the general progress of this Presidency than industrial unrest.

As you all know, there has been serious and protracted industrial strife on the Western Coast; though many miles away, the echo has unfortunately reached Calcutta. When these industrial disputes

occur, I feel it is necessary to find out the cause—whether there are grievances, and whether they are genuine or of artificial manufacture for ulterior motives.

In the stoppages which have occurred, so far I have been struck by the fact that as a rule no grievances have been properly formulated and presented, with the consequence that the managements concerned have had no alternative but to close their mills. The danger of labour being exploited for political ends is, I fear, not altogether beyond question. Strikes as a method for obtaining consideration of grievances are really out of date. In England experience has shown that no benefit accrues to anyone. If strikes are used for the furtherance of political ends, Government must become a party.

There is another matter which has greatly impressed me since I have been in Bengal, and that is the support which is readily accorded by Indians of all classes to Sport. I have also been impressed not only by the way the Bengali can play games—Cricket, Football and Hockey—but also by the spirit in which they play them.

Most games, I think, as we know them, have had their origin in Great Britain. British people were the first to encourage games, in the belief that reasonable indulgence in games was to the general benefit of the nation. To-day they have progressed to such an extent that there are some who suggest that we play too much. It was some time before other nations followed our example. But I think you will find that in progressive countries to-day

every encouragement is given to healthy exercise and organized games, as such a policy is to the national advantage.

On Saturday last, I had the privilege of opening a new club in connection with Aviation in Bengal, and I saw a great number of Indians who joined with Europeans in the support of this enterprise.

I venture to suggest that connected with the club should be a sports club, where I could go and play a round of Golf with some of those young men, who learnt the game at Oxford or Cambridge. I have been struck since I have been in Bengal by the lack of such a club. I was glad to hear that the suggestion is one which had already been thought of, and it was hoped that in the course of a year such a club would be in existence.

Golf is a good game in one respect, in that the struggle with its peculiar difficulties forces one to forget other difficulties that may be temporarily oppressing one. I am a great believer in the creative power of friendship and understanding of sports and games. I shall watch with much interest its progress in this Presidency.

I am deeply interested in the prosperity of this club. The part it plays in the social life of this great city is truly beneficial.

East is East and West is West, but there are conditions when the twain can meet with great mutual advantage. I for one shall always welcome any opportunity which is afforded to me of trying to prove that such is the case.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Calcutta Committee of the Kalimpong Homes on 11th February 1929.

GENTLEMEN,

I am very pleased to preside again on the occasion of the annual meeting of the St. Andrew's Colonial Homes.

I was very disappointed that I was unable to accept the invitation to attend the 28th anniversary meeting at Kalimpong last September. I am glad to hear that the anniversary meeting was attended with its usual success and that on that occasion a new road, known as the "Murray Road," was opened which enables motor-cars now to drive right up to the Homes. I understand that my friend, Dr. Graham, does not yet find it necessary to use this new road, but prefers to resort to the more simple method of Shank's pony.

* There are one or two well-known faces we miss at this gathering to-night, especially that of Sir Alexander Murray, who for a considerable time acted as Chairman of your Committee, and whose great enthusiasm for the interests of the Homes was so invaluable. Although he has gone from India, he always retains his interest in the welfare of the Homes, though we all realize that his place here will be very hard to fill. We are, however, delighted to know that our friend, Mr. Travers, has stepped into the vacancy caused by Sir Alexander's retirement, and I feel quite sure that his assistance in the

position of Chairman will prove of great advantage. It is always the busiest men who find time to help good causes.

Dr. Graham tells me that you are indebted to Sir Thomas and Lady Smith of Cawnpore for some important additions and improvements to the Baby's Cottage. This Cottage is the centre for the training of girls as Nurses to children—a supply of whom, we all know, is urgently needed and sought for throughout India. This is a most suitable occupation for some of the girls in the Homes and a fitting way for them to earn their living.

During the past year the Agricultural Department of Government has taken over the Demonstration Farm which has been carried on by the Homes for 20 years. The Farm has been rented to Government from April 1928 and will be continued on its present lines. It should prove of great assistance to the agricultural life of the Kalimpong Subdivision. If the cultivators of the hill sides can be supplied with information as to cultivation, manuring, etc., and with good seeds, Government feel that there is scope for great development of the agricultural industry.

The Birkmyre Hostel continues to be a most useful and successful institution. It reminds the Calcutta business world of what the Homes are doing and should assure their support.

Dr. Graham and his band of devoted workers have every reason to be satisfied with the continued success which attends their efforts. We are all delighted to see him amongst us, apparently enjoying good health. We hope this may continue

and he may long be spared to inspire by his wonderful enthusiasm this great work for which he is primarily responsible and which has now acquired world-wide repute.

I will continue to watch the progress of the Homes with interest and sympathy. Such an institution can be supported by Government and the public with complete confidence—and I commend it as one of the greatest missionary endeavours in India.

His Excellency's Speech at the Calcutta University Convocation on 18th February 1929.

VICE-CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I must first offer my congratulations to you, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, upon the address you have just delivered, in which you have dealt with several subjects of special interest with great lucidity and evident sincerity. After having heard your address, I feel that no one could accuse you of want of sympathy for the legitimate aspirations of this University, nor want of courage in expressing your convictions upon questions which directly affect its life and progress.

One of the greatest needs of the University is the proper appreciation by all connected with it—whether Staff or Students—of those primary functions which a successful University should fulfil and their unselfish support of them.

The Vice-Chancellor of this University occupies a position, both difficult and anxious, and involving considerable sacrifice of time and personal convenience. I can echo with great sincerity your appreciation of the services of the late Vice-Chancellor, which I am sure all here desire to acknowledge and place on record.

You have respectfully referred to the illness of His Majesty the King-Emperor which has aroused so much concern and sympathy amongst all classes throughout the Empire. I shall be pleased to convey to His Majesty the message from this Convocation

of its gratification at His Majesty's progress towards convalescence and its earnest hope for a speedy and complete recovery.

I should like also to join with you in deplored the loss of those eminent sons of this University to whom you have referred. It was my privilege to know personally the Right Hon'ble Lord Sinha, the Right Hon'ble Sir Syed Ameer Ali and Mr. S. R. Das. We are well aware of the prominent part they played in the social and political life of India, and the exceptional services they each rendered not only to their mother country, but also to the Empire.

It is also right that, as Chancellor, I should take this opportunity of endorsing the congratulations which the University offered to Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose upon the attainment of his 70th birthday. Sir Jagadish has gained for himself an unique position amongst international Scientists, and the University have every reason to be proud of so eminent a scholar.

The achievements of Professor Raman, of which you have spoken in such felicitous and well-deserved terms, must be a source of great satisfaction and pride to Scientists throughout India, and an inspiration to all who study here.

This is the second occasion upon which, as Chancellor of this University, I have had the privilege of addressing you. The lapse of a year has enabled me further to study your problems and difficulties, your traditions and achievements, and it is with this increased understanding and sympathy that I feel I can address to-day, those who have just graduated, and also those on whom the immediate charge of the administration of this University devolves.

To the new graduates I wish to offer a word of congratulation upon their success after long and strenuous endeavour. You, who have won through the trial, may well feel some gratification at the result. You have striven to prepare yourselves for the complex and serious problems of active life by equipping yourselves with knowledge and wisdom. Knowledge without wisdom is dangerous, as wisdom without knowledge is defenceless. In the present state of this country's affairs, at a time full of hope, but not free from anxiety, there is need for those who have been so trained as to be able to prove all things and hold fast to what is good; to value tradition without being enslaved to it; to have the courage of their convictions and yet be tolerant towards those of others; and to reconcile the claims of liberty with those of order. A degree well earned is the outward symbol of qualities of mind and character—a critical and yet receptive habit of thought, a union of knowledge and independence with reverence and respect. These are qualities which it should be the primary function of the University to create.

I believe it has long been recognized that this University of Calcutta in its creative task has been hampered by various obstacles. The nature of these obstacles was exposed in the masterly analysis of the Report of the Calcutta University Commission and it has been a matter of surprise that as a result of that report so little has been done in Calcutta to carry out its proposals. A combination of causes appears to have been responsible. There has been financial stringency, a natural and jealous fear of the University for its autonomy, inevitable differences

of opinion and perhaps, I should add, instability of Ministries, which have stood in the way of any radical reform. But the need for reform has been generally and candidly recognized. It seems clear, for instance, that the admission of thousands of students whose previous training owing to weaknesses of the secondary school system is of the most inadequate character, has tended seriously to lower the standard of University teaching. At the same time the control which the University is called upon to exercise over secondary schools makes a demand which its organization was not intended to meet. Obviously one of the first needs in any scheme of educational reform must be to release the University from this extraneous obligation, while at the same time securing to it its legitimate share in the fostering of secondary education. It is also necessary to ensure that secondary education shall receive its due share of public money and the advantage of expert control and guidance in order to secure for all boys and girls in high schools a system of general training, which shall not only prepare those who must forthwith work for their livelihood, but also those who are fortunate enough to be able to continue their studies and take advantage of the more exacting opportunities of University education.

It is with these objects that the Bengal Secondary Education Bill has been prepared, on which, I trust, the valuable criticism and sympathetic consideration of the University and the Legislative Council will soon be available.

There is also ample evidence of a general recognition of the need for the reconstruction of the controlling bodies of the University itself. The

present constitution has existed almost unchanged for many years, while the scope of University teaching and the range of its responsibilities have enormously increased. From a purely affiliating and examining body, the University has become also a large teaching organization. The number of students under its care has increased rapidly and is now almost double that of the number in all the Indian unitary Universities put together, whilst its authorities have control of the expenditure of 22 lakhs of rupees a year. This remarkable expansion has imposed a strain on the existing organization which becomes every year more and more difficult for it to support. The Calcutta University Commission saw these difficulties and proposed changes of a far-reaching character,—proposals by which most other Universities have hastened to profit, but which hitherto have not been applied to this University. No one will question the wisdom of moving slowly, nor the right of the University to scrutinize with anxious discrimination any proposals which might infringe its autonomy or impair its efficiency, but it is dangerous to delay too long. The weaknesses to which pointed attention was drawn nearly ten years ago are not likely to improve by undue delay in dealing with them. The only possible advantage that may have accrued is that you have now the benefit of the experience of other Indian Universities which have not hesitated to avail themselves of the recommendations of the Commission. By waiting any longer you will run a great risk of finding that the evils you wish to remedy have become almost irremediable.

As you are aware, the Educational Department have had under preparation during the last few

months a comprehensive Bill for the reorganization of the University of Calcutta, based on previous discussions of the needs of the University, as well as the experience that has been obtained at other Universities since the Sadler Commission issued their report. In view of the need for a speedy settlement of the matter, I venture to express my earnest hope that the University authorities will be able to report on the draft proposals that have been referred to them for opinion within the next few months, so that there may be as little further delay as possible in placing definite proposals before the Bengal Legislative Council.

One of the greatest anxieties with which this University is faced is the continued instability of its finances. For many years now the University has been unable to balance income and expenditure, and a succession of deficit budgets has alarmed all those who wish it well. Four years ago the assistance of Government was obtained, and an annual grant of three lakhs of rupees was promised for a term of years, but in spite of this there have been deficits, and the burden of debt is still growing. I recognize that University education is and must be expensive, and that a University, such as this, has a claim on the good-will and on the purse of the State. This has been recognized in every country. But the claims of other branches of education must not be forgotten, and I think we must face the fact that, whilst Government should always readily contribute its share to the expenditure of the University, it can scarcely be expected to consent to assume a contingent liability. The University asks to be assured of a sufficient income and to be free to spend

that income as it considers to be best in the general interest of the University. With this desire, I have much sympathy, but it behoves the University to control its finances with vigilant and thrifty carefulness, so as to be able to avoid that irksome dependence which must be the inevitable corollary of debt. Next year the financial relations between Government and University will again have to be considered, and I am pleased to note that the Senate have appointed a Committee to review the whole financial and academic situation. I trust that as a result of their labours the University will be able to produce such evidence of wise economy as will ensure that confidence in their administration which is requisite to further consideration of their claims to continued support from the public purse.

There is another matter deeply affecting the efficiency of the University to which I should like to refer. The annual reports on the Students' Welfare Scheme have revealed a condition of things which must profoundly alarm all those interested in the welfare of young Bengal. We are told that only three out of ten students are physically normal, that thousands are suffering from preventable diseases, and that in many cases there is a steady deterioration in health and physique during a student's University career. Physical well-being is a necessity of all human activity and a foundation of national prosperity. Thanks to the efforts of the University, the existence and extent of the evil have now been laid bare. Neither the University nor the public will, I am sure, acquiesce in such an evil when aware of its magnitude, and some well-devised and comprehensive system of treatment and after-care is a matter of peculiar urgency.

I have heard it said that the life of many of the students in the schools and colleges in this Presidency is joyless and dreary, and I fear there is truth in this assertion. Too frequent examinations bound the horizon of the student and dominate his outlook. He is often educated at the cost of great self-sacrifice on the part of his parents and dependents. To obtain a degree which he fondly hopes will prove the key to a post, becomes naturally an absorbing pre-occupation. What seems to be needed is conditions which would stimulate that joyousness and vitality which go to make youth a golden age. Colleges and Universities do not yet provide those opportunities which they might well do for the full play of the many-sided interests of youth—the enjoyment of healthy physical exercise, the sharpening of mind upon mind, the formation of disinterested friendships. I recognize with thankfulness how much has been done in recent years to make life fuller and happier for the student by the stimulation of interest in games and the provision of facilities for them, as well as by the development of tutorial work and of corporate activities. Much credit is due to the University and the colleges which have striven against odds to improve the conditions of student life, but much still remains to be done. Efforts should be directed towards assuring an education which will make the student a happy and healthy as well as a useful citizen. I believe at the moment there is no sports ground attached to this University which they can call their own. It is a deficiency which ought to be remedied, and it appears to me to offer an opportunity to the well-wishers and would-be benefactors of the

University to bestow an inestimable benefit upon it. I shall be pleased to help in this laudable object in every* possible way.

There is one other matter to which I would like to make some reference. For some years past at every Convocation of this University, the Chancellor has had the pleasing duty of conferring its degrees on a small number of women students. Their number grows slowly but steadily. One of the gravest problems that confront the Educationist and Statesman in India to-day is the cultural disparity between the sexes, which must become more pronounced as the rapid progress in the West towards educational equality strikes the East. One of the most hopeful features of recent years has been the eager interest of educated women in the education of their sex. The spread of education among women is a determining factor in the social progress of the country, and this can only be fully achieved through the guidance and service of educated women themselves. Those women who have graduated to-day should regard themselves as pioneers and missionaries, with an obligation to use their opportunities and qualifications to bring the light of learning within the reach of women in Bengal, and help them to help themselves towards those positions in life which women can well fulfil to the inestimable advantage of the community.

MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

For nearly 70 years the main responsibility for higher education in this province has fallen upon this University. Many of her sons have become famous as Writers, Scientists, Teachers, Lawyers, Doctors and Statesmen. Some have made history, and their names are inscribed in the Roll of Honour.

With this great and proud record behind us, we must turn our eyes to the future in which the part this University must play is bound to be even greater than in the past. The springs which feed the fountain of knowledge are active. We must see that every outlet and channel is kept clear and free from choking weeds.

No University education and training can assure individual success, but an obligation rests upon us keeping pace with changes inevitable with progress to strive to provide such opportunities for the students, which, taken full advantage of, will assure a qualification which cannot be ignored and fit a successful candidate for any branch of service.

That your best endeavours will be given to this task, I have no doubt, and I beg to assure you of my own ready co-operation in a work of such vital importance to the general progress in Bengal.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of the Jaldaooa Bridge in Jalpaiguri
Duars on 28th February 1929.***

GENTLEMEN—

It is a great pleasure to Lady Jackson and myself to be here to-day, and to take part in the proceedings of opening this fine bridge for public use.

We are here after a most enjoyable tour round the Duars, when we have had the good fortune to meet many of those who carry on the great tea industry in this district and to enjoy that generous hospitality for which they are justly famous. From all appearances they seem to thrive on tea, though I have reason to know it is not the only beverage in the Duars.

I listened to Mr. Haig's remarks with much interest and fully appreciate his view that to complete the original scheme of communications throughout the Duars there is a good deal still to be done, but he will agree a great deal has been done. The main object of my tour is to acquaint myself firsthand with the communications and roads in this district which have been made during the last 14 years. This information should help me to form some opinion as to the results of the expenditure of nearly 51 lakhs which has been undertaken in the interest of the district and its inhabitants.

My experience will help me when the policy, as regards the future, and the continuation of the work as recommended by Sir John Cumming, come up for consideration by Government.

I agree that it would be an advantage, as Mr. Haig suggests, in the general interest of the district and its inhabitants, to have a direct road from west to east of the Duars from this bridge. But the estimated cost of such a work is a large and formidable proposition in a Province where the Government has not a rupee to spare. I can perhaps venture to say that I have been personally much impressed with what I have seen of the work done. My information leads me to believe that the results obtained from the expenditure have been satisfactory and it can be claimed that the policy of Government, by proceeding upon the recommendations of Sir John Cumming, has proved wise and has been justified. There has been great development in the tea industry, as also in the Government Khas Mahal Estates, and the inhabitants and ryots of the district have undoubtedly been benefited in every direction.

To make communications and roads through such a district must necessarily be expensive and it is difficult accurately to estimate the cost or to forecast the returns from such expenditure. As I have said, I believe the results so far obtained have justified the expenditure. If that be the case, it will naturally be suggested that we should go ahead without fear and complete the work. It would not be wise for me to express any definite views as to the future and until I have had an opportunity of thoroughly discussing the problem with my Government. It appears to me, however, that the tea industry has obtained considerable advantage from the development of communications in their midst. It was laid down by Sir John Cumming that

if roads were primarily for the benefit of the tea industry, the industry should contribute at least half the cost. It will probably not surprise any one here if I give it as my opinion that the industry might be expected, and I think they would be prepared, to bear a considerable share of any further expenditure necessary to complete the original scheme. It is no use blinking the fact that the present financial position in this Presidency is such that the contemplation of a further expenditure of 50 lakhs on development of communications in this district in the near future, cannot be other than disturbing and embarrassing.

It must be remembered that roads and communications are the arteries which carry the life blood to such a district as this. Without them life and progress are hardly possible, but with good communications there seems hardly room for doubt that further development would result.

In a few moments I am to have the pleasure and privilege of declaring this bridge open for public use. I think I must be right in saying that the completion of this bridge is the most important link in the whole chain of the communication scheme. The roads could not serve their full purpose without this bridge, nor can this bridge serve its full purpose without roads. The construction of a bridge nearly 1500 feet long is at any time a formidable task and in this case exceptional difficulties have had to be overcome as Mr. Hodgson told us, but this work has been carried out without delay and according to plan. This is an occasion upon which credit should be given where it is due. I wish to congratulate those responsible upon the successful issue of their

labours. The bridge is substantially built and capable of carrying with safety any ordinary vehicle from an Austin 7 to an 8-ton military tank and at the same time is able to withstand the violent onslaught of the river when under the intoxicating influence of the monsoon.

I wish to congratulate the civil officers, who have been employed upon this bridge, and was glad to hear praise for their work. I should like to take this opportunity of offering a word of special praise to Mr. A. J. King who, as Executive Engineer, has been mainly responsible for the constructional work of the whole scheme throughout the Duars. For the last 14 years Mr. King has been engaged exclusively on this work in good weather and in bad. These last few days I have had an opportunity of travelling over many miles of the Public Works Department roads and I admit that I have been greatly impressed by their excellence. The lay-out of the roads has been well conceived and the construction efficiently carried out. Mr. King has every reason to be proud of the part he has played and I take this opportunity of acknowledging Government's appreciation of his services in this connection.

I have much pleasure in declaring the Bridge open for public use and trust that it may prove of great and always increasing benefit to the inhabitants of the district.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Centenary
Celebration of the Oriental Seminary on
5th March 1929.***

SIR DEVA PRASAD SARBADHIKARI, • LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It gives Lady Jackson and myself much pleasure to be present here this evening on this interesting occasion, when you celebrate the Centenary of the Oriental Seminary, and I thank you for the kindly welcome you have extended to us.

We have listened with much interest to the history of this Institution from its foundation in 1829 to the present day. The account you, Sir Deva, have given us must have caused a feeling of admiration amongst all present here to-day for that noble enthusiasm for his country's educational advancement which impelled Babu Gour Mohan Addy to found this Institution, and also for the unselfish and patriotic co-operation which he received from those eminent Indian gentlemen whose names you have recited in your report. With great foresight Babu Gour Mohan Addy saw the advantages to be obtained from an education in English and on Western lines.

The Seminary started just a 100 years ago with a teaching staff composed of Europeans and Indians. It is on record that Lord Auckland in 1844 and succeeding Viceroys and Governors have exhibited considerable interest in your affairs and I understand the Seminary was referred to in the famous despatch of 1854, which is a testimony to the high position which it held in the early days of pioneer work in education in India.

On the occasion of the celebration of a 100 years of educational effort, it is but natural that you should look to the past, and there is no doubt that you can do so with much satisfaction, and it is right you should pay due homage to the memory of its founder. This Seminary has had its ups and downs and, as you have put it, has passed through various vicissitudes, but it has survived and retained its original character, in spite of great changes which have taken place through the progress of educational methods. You can point to many noble sons who have become eminent and rendered exceptional services to their country in all branches of activity. The record of the past is worthy of commemoration.

I have spoken of the past, but one cannot live solely on one's past record. Good traditions are valuable possessions for any school or college, but one must not get so enslaved by them as to allow them to hinder progress. One must look ahead. This Seminary was a pioneer institution in the last century and for years claimed a high place as an educational institution in Bengal and its success encouraged the establishment of other similar schools. Educational conditions have changed rapidly and I trust that whilst living up to your traditions, you will strive to maintain the honourable position you enjoyed in the past as one of the foremost schools in this Presidency.

With more than 1,000 High English schools and 1,800 Middle English schools in Bengal, and many of them undoubtedly efficient, it is necessary for the older institutions to make sure that they do not fall behind and that in the practical results of education they are in no way inferior to other similar

institutions. The progress and efficiency of every school are closely watched and known. There are competition and comparison. The percentage of successful passes is high. You must aim at living up to the average.

For success much naturally depends upon the enthusiasm and efficiency of the Head-master and staff. Both in England and in Bengal I have been impressed by the extent to which a school can be influenced by the personality and administrative ability of the teaching staff. In England one can see the handiwork of great Head-masters in every school and college. The Head-master has great responsibility and is given every assistance to carry out his policy as regards internal administration free from undue interference. 'I am convinced that upon the efforts and example of the Head-master depend mainly the general tone and welfare of the school.'

In 1914 you wisely decided to erect new buildings and modernise the school. These were opened by the Governor of Bengal and are those which you occupy to-day. They are up-to-date and in a line with other similar educational institutions. I was pleased to hear that you have a good playing field which was obtained through the efforts of Mr. Lyon and to which Government subscribed Rs. 20,000. A playing field which affords opportunities of a health-giving enjoyment and exercise is a most important adjunct to any school. In fact in these days I consider that no school or college is properly equipped without suitable play grounds.

I hear with great satisfaction that a system of training which lays emphasis on games and play and the development of a sporting spirit, has been

introduced, whilst at the same time the Committee of Management have made it their aim to train boys to be self-respecting, manly and devoted citizens, serviceable to the country and to the State and God-fearing with all. These are admirable objectives which if earnestly pursued should command success.

This school has a noble heritage. It will be your endeavour to be worthy upholders of it and follow faithfully the ideals of its founders.

I hope it may be possible to give a holiday to the boys. I congratulate the Seminary on scoring its century—not out. Your next hundred must be more brilliant than the first. I wish it continued success and feel confidence in its future prosperity.

His Excellency's Speech at the Prize Distribution of the Deaf and Dumb School on 8th March 1929.

GENTLEMEN,

Lady Jackson and I greatly appreciate the opportunity which has been given to us to-day of visiting this Institution. I have heard of your Institution through Sir Alexander Murray who was for so many years your President and took such a great personal and generous interest in your welfare. We are all sorry that he has left India. It is to men like Sir Alexander Murray and your Honorary Secretary, Rai Bahadur Hari Dhon Dutt, who gives his valuable services with so much advantage, although a busy man, that you are indebted for much of your success.

It has given me particular pleasure to open the extension of the main building, the acquisition of which will give you much needed dormitory accommodation and, I feel, will greatly assist you in the good work you are doing. For this great benefit you are indebted to the generosity of Raja Sarat Chandra Ray Chaudhuri Bahadur of Chanchal, whose handsome donation of Rs. 20,000 in memory of his son has enabled you to make this valuable addition to your establishment. The Raja Bahadur can be assured of the sincere gratitude of all connected with this Institution and that his generous assistance to such a deserving cause will ever be remembered by those who benefit and I trust it will never give him cause for a moment's regret.

I must also congratulate the contractor, Mr. Aditya, for the satisfactory way in which he has carried out the work.

I have listened to the report of the Secretary with much interest. There is no question that the Institution is well administered and is doing everything possible to assist those poor children, who being denied two of nature's most priceless gifts, are so utterly unable to help themselves. To me the education you are able to impart and the manner in which the children are able to take advantage of your assistance, are wonderful. The fate of those born deaf and dumb might be one of uselessness and helplessness, but your Institution has proved that this need not be so, and you are able to bring real hopefulness to them and enable them to grow up useful citizens.

It is indeed satisfactory to know that many of those brought up in this Institution, when they leave, have been able to get employment and earn a decent livelihood. I was naturally pleased to hear that they play and enjoy their games and the record shows that they manage to win a majority of the matches they play—Football and Cricket.

We have been told that there are 32,000 deaf and dumb in this Province of which 14,000 are of school-going age. Out of this huge number you are able at present to give the advantage of the benefit afforded at this school, to only 175. An expansion of the activities of such an Institution as this is indeed desirable, and I can but hope that the splendid example of the Raja Bahadur will be followed by others, and that you may be able in the

future to extend your praiseworthy activities and at least double the number of your inmates.

I notice that nine scholarships are still available in certain districts for deaf and dumb children. I feel that when the work of this Institution is better known throughout the Province, it will be more appreciated and more scholarships might be awarded.

The spectacle of the deaf and dumb must excite compassion in every human heart and it is a matter of great satisfaction to know that in this Institution a few of those so sadly afflicted are able to obtain that solace which comes through true sympathy in their misfortune and enjoy a degree of happiness which they would never otherwise know. I can only express the hope that your good work may continue and prosper and that it will become better known, for I feel it is only necessary for it to be known to be assured of the generous support of the public.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the New Eye Hospital, Medical College,
on 12th March 1929.***

GENTLEMEN,

I greatly appreciate the opportunity which is afforded me this evening of taking part in the opening of the New Eye Hospital. This must be an important acquisition to the hospitals in Calcutta and will supply a great want.

It is well known that diseases of the eye are extremely common in all tropical countries and India is no exception to the rule. I have been studying the history of the ophthalmological side of the hospital in connection with the activities of the Medical College. I have learnt of the extraordinary progress which has been made during the last thirty years.

For many years the Medical College Hospital endeavoured to meet the needs of practically the whole Province, but as time went on it was found essential to have a separate department for the treatment of eye trouble in view of the ever-increasing number of patients. It was then that two great benefactors came to the assistance of the hospital.

Mr. Law and his family provided an infirmary for the treatment of indoor patients, and later, Mr. D. Mitter provided a department for outdoor patients. To these gentlemen the public of Bengal and the medical profession owe a great debt of gratitude. Their kind-hearted munificence provided

comfort to thousands of sufferers, and enabled eye surgeons to work under suitable conditions and to impart instruction to hundreds of students.

It was not long before further increase in the number of patients made provision of further accommodation necessary, and in 1911 it was decided to construct an entirely new building. This was begun in 1918 by the Public Works Department. The treatment of cases was diverted from the old buildings, with the ready acquiescence of the original donors, Mr. Law and Mr. Mitter. It will be my pleasure to open formally the Mitter Outdoor Dispensary and the Law Female Wards of twenty beds in the New Eye Infirmary.

In 1922, the late Raja D. N. Mallick offered to endow thirty-eight beds in the Eye Infirmary, which offer was gratefully accepted, but before the completion of the deed of gift the Raja unfortunately died. His sons have, however, generously carried out the late Raja's intention, and it is a great pleasure to welcome them here to-day.

The three wards, named the Mallick Wards in honour of the generous munificence of the late Raja, will to-day be formally opened. In addition to providing the actual beds for the wards, the late Raja's trustees have agreed to contribute annually a sum of Rs. 5,200 towards the upkeep of these beds.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Maynard and Mr. Crouch we owe this finely designed building. Due to the great technical knowledge of Colonel Copperger it is thoroughly complete and up-to-date in its equipment, arrangements and work, and will bear comparison with any eye hospital in the East.

In addition to the large out-patient department it provides accommodation for 130 indoor patients.

The numbers of indoor and outdoor patients in 1928, which amounted to indoor 2,364 with a daily average of 99, and outdoor 20,333 with a daily average of 196, are in themselves a testimony to the value of this infirmary. Such large and growing numbers of cases could not be dealt with by only one senior member of the staff, and in 1927-28 honorary visiting members were added to the senior members of the staff by Government to share in the work of the hospital.

Dr. S. K. Mukherjee and Dr. T. Ahmed offered honorary services which were accepted, and these gentlemen are now working in an honorary capacity in the hospital and take their share not only in treating the indoor and outdoor patients, but in teaching the students of the Medical College, to whom adequate instruction and demonstration about diseases are so important. The system of uniting honorary workers to the official staff has worked extremely well and smoothly and with the happiest results to all. As the work further develops and expands it may be found necessary to add to members of the honorary staff.

Two main functions of this new Eye Hospital must be, firstly, to deal with sufferers from eye trouble, and secondly, to be able to impart that instruction which will ensure a large number of doctors, skilled in Ophthalmology, being distributed throughout the Province for the benefit of sufferers.

For generations India has been famous for its eye surgeons and many of these have made their name in Bengal. The new hospital should enable you to live up to your traditions. It is hoped that a Post-Graduate School in Ophthalmology, in connection with the College Hospital and the Eye Infirmary, will be established in a few years.

The opening of this infirmary marks a definite stage in the provision of treatment for sufferers in the Province, and for adequate instruction in diseases of the eye both to under-graduates and graduates.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Sanskrit
Association Convocation on 13th March
1929.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very pleased to have this opportunity of attending your Convocation to day. On two other occasions I have had the privilege of presiding over convocations of Pundits at Dacca, and there I became acquainted with your educational ideals and aspirations for which I have great admiration. Here again amongst the teachers and students of the ancient Sanskrit language, I am able to visualise the traditions of that great eastern culture about which I have heard so much praise, and to appreciate the force of the words of that distinguished Philosopher, Professor Max Muller, that have been so aptly quoted by your President.

I have listened to Sir Nalini's address with much interest. He reminded us that the Calcutta Sanskrit Association is a Government organisation and that it carries considerable administrative responsibilities and advises Government in matters connected with indigenous Sanskrit teaching. The Government much appreciates the work of your Association. It is satisfactory to know that even in these utilitarian days your system of education can claim so many alumni that over seven thousand students appeared at the last examination of your Association, and that the study of the ancient Hindu Sastras is becoming popular among the girls as well, as appears from the gradually increasing number of lady candidates in your examinations. Your standard,

I am told, maintains a high level and this is no doubt the reason why so much value is attached to your certificates and titles. I trust that the ideals of teaching associated with *tols* are not being unduly subordinated to the requirements of your examinations and that the Calcutta Sanskrit Association are fully alive to their responsibility in the matter. It is their sacred duty to preserve unimpaired that standard of scholarly outlook and religious devotion which has been the chief characteristic of indigenous Sanskrit learning in the past, and which too much attention to mere examinations may tend to destroy.

I regret to learn of the loss your Association has suffered through the death of several eminent Sanskrit scholars as mentioned by the President. I trust that men will not be wanting amongst your Association, who following the example of these great Pundits, can advance the cause of Sanskrit education which you all have at heart.

Sir Nalini has referred to certain of your immediate requirements to which he asked my special attention, some of which appear in the report of the committee set up by Government in 1923, which I have seen. The report of the committee has been under the consideration of Government for a long time and I am informed that it is expected that all outstanding recommendations will shortly be disposed of and that a Government resolution publishing the decisions reached on them will then issue. It must not be forgotten that some of the changes proposed are of a far reaching character, involving considerable financial commitment and they require careful scrutiny in the present

state of provincial finances. I am sure Government will try to meet your urgent needs if it is at all possible, and you may rely upon my personal sympathy.

The system of education given in the *tols*, where both the teachers and the taught learn habits of self-denial and spiritual advancement, has kept alive an ideal which I trust will never be forgotten. The requirements of present day society are no doubt not the same as in the past. New forces have come from the West, and India is passing through a period of ferment which accompanies a change. The more East comes in close contact with the West the greater will be the need for protecting indigenous educational practices and ideals from being lost sight of. It is, therefore, the duty of the well-wishers of the country, while aiding in every possible way the assimilation of all that is helpful in Western philosophy and science, to ensure that, in this synthesis, the vital need for the continued study of your ancient Sanskrit and Pali writers is fully appreciated. In particular, it is incumbent on you, the Pundits of Bengal, who are keeping alight the torch of your ancient culture, to do your best to contribute towards a wise solution of the problem.

I wish to offer my best wishes to all those who have received title to-day. I thank you for the warm and cordial reception that you have given me on this occasion and I wish your association a long career of usefulness and of service to the cause of Sanskritic learning in the Province.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Annual
Meeting of the Society for the Protection
of Children in India on 18th March 1929.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am very pleased to attend this meeting tonight and to offer to the Society for the Protection of Children all the sympathy and assistance I can in their very laudable work.

There is a great need in India for work of the character which this Society undertakes and, I understand, has undertaken for 25 years. Their main objective is the care of neglected children, a class with which Government are not really in a position satisfactorily to deal.

I was impressed by the reference in the Report to the need of further accommodation for the children who come under your care. My attention was drawn to a speech made by my predecessor Lord Lytton two years ago when he referred to your desire for a hostel which would serve as a clearing house for children, who come under your care or in other words, where the children could be separated into different categories. You have again drawn attention to this need and it is one which is sure to command general sympathy, especially as the supply of homes and accommodation is unquestionably inadequate. There is no doubt that a clearing house would be valuable and your Society might perhaps aim, if I may make a suggestion, at having the clearing house declared a place of suitable custody or an industrial school under the terms of the Children's Act or Immoral Traffic Act.

In order to get Government support, it would, I think, be necessary for your hostel to be declared as such. I have asked Government to proceed at once to come to a decision if the proposed hostel could be declared a place of suitable custody or an industrial school. Until I have further information on this subject, you will, I am sure, appreciate that I cannot commit Government, though I am perhaps at liberty to say that in this matter you have my personal sympathy.

The problem of child life and welfare in India is a very serious one, not only for Government, but for every one who dwells in this land. It is perhaps a little outside your immediate work, though your society deals with children of all ages, but it is a striking fact that we should read this morning a statement by Dr. Bentley that 50 per cent. of the children born in Bengal, die before the age of 8. This forcibly brings home to every one that any effort in connection with child welfare deserves support.

I should like to express my admiration for those who are connected with this work and labour under considerable difficulties and not with too much encouragement. Miss Arbuthnot has made a plea for increased membership and support. I must say that a membership of 168 appears to be a very poor backing for the efforts of those who devote so much of their time to such a deserving cause. The objects of the Society are most worthy. The work carried on in connection with it is well done and the results are such as to warrant continued and additional effort. It deserves support and I sincerely hope that much will be forthcoming in the future than has been the case in the past.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meetings of the St. John Ambulance Association and Red Cross Society on 20th March 1929.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have read the reports of the St. John Ambulance Association and the Red Cross Society with much interest, and I should like to congratulate them on their satisfactory position and on the progress they have made during the last year. Both of them are firmly established in Calcutta and are really valuable institutions in this city. I feel that as long as their interests are looked after by people of the efficiency of their present organisers, they will be assured of help and support from the public.

The St. John Ambulance Association's position in England is almost unique. I personally seem to have known it as long as I can remember. Its members were always active, but now wherever a crowd is assembled, the St. John Ambulance men are invariably prominent and their useful and helpful work has gained a justifiable popularity and respect.

I am interested to know that in the face of the increased traffic in Calcutta, it is proposed to discuss the importance of first aid stations at points where accidents frequently happen. That is a good proposal but I hope you will not be too kind and encourage accidents.

The Bengal Provincial Ambulance competition is found to be a great impetus, the number of

competitors is maintained each year, and it is pleasing to report that the Police trophy was won by the Bogra Police team.

I remember in the old days the members of the St. John Ambulance Association were regarded as amateurs and although admired for their charitable disposition, were not so highly respected, but now they are regarded as what they really are—thoroughly efficient and complete experts at their job.

The Red Cross was a product of the war and we can literally say that we should have been in a bad way without their wonderful organisation. A product of the war must necessarily run some risk of being regarded as unnecessary without a war, but the Society has survived any such risk and to-day it renders exceptional services in civil life. Every one realises that it must be kept going and in such a form as to be able to expand to any dimensions if necessary.

I was interested to see that the Society in Bengal pays wholly or in part the Nurses' salary in 16 mufassil hospitals and gives grant for comforts etc. to 33 hospitals in the mufassil and 8 hospitals in Calcutta. I am glad to see that the activities of the Welfare Division are expanding and have an important influence.

The Health Welfare Week which is celebrated in every district and many rural areas of Bengal has awakened the authorities to the necessity of the establishment of Welfare Centres in the mufassil and eight towns are considering the establishment of Welfare Centres, which will be assisted by the Society.

Sir Basil Eddis, the late President, has left India. We very much regret his absence. I had reason to know his many charitable interests behind a retiring and modest exterior. Mr. Bentall has taken his place. We are fortunate in securing his services. I know whenever he takes a job, he will do his best to be assured of success.

Mrs. Cottle and Mrs. Chidley have been indefatigable in their work and I should say that their keen enthusiasm is catching.

Let me congratulate all upon the satisfactory position of the Association and the Society.

